

TOC H JOURNAL

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Readers will realise that the issue of this month's JOURNAL is belated owing to the General Strike. The Editor hopes that Correspondents will, as far as possible, have followed the usual course in sending matter for the June number by the last Thursday (May 27) of this month.

DURING the GENERAL STRIKE a number of members sent letters or telegrams to Headquarters urging that Toc H should do something to end the conflict; to secure a just and lasting settlement. It seemed that they did not realise either the present insignificance of Toc H—in the sphere into which they wished to thrust it, or the sharp division between members on the issues of the Strike. Hardly any of us towards the end can have remained truly neutral: we saw hardship, evil, danger in various places, and the call to resist it drew some of us one way and some another. And yet the task of Toc H members, on whatever side their opinion lay, was clear and unchanged. By a coincidence, the article which follows on the next page (it was already in type before the Strike came into view) states this task in its opening sentence—“*Toc H exists, first and foremost . . . to pass on a spirit—the spirit of Christian fellowship and service shown by all ranks in the Great War.*” And the pace was set for all of us, regardless of political bias, by the message, remarkable for its direct reference to “the spirit of Christmas,” which the Prime Minister broadcasted to the Nation on the eve of the conflict—“*Keep steady. Remember that peace on earth comes to men of goodwill.*” The record of the dark ten days which followed is known to everyone. The one redeeming feature of the wider conflict of 1914–1918 was repeated in 1926—the spirit of fellowship and service was manifested, far beyond the hopes of most of us. “The old good nature of the people of England,” as Clarendon called it nearly three centuries ago, reasserted itself in the face of trouble and won the road to peace. Out of bitterness came also kindness; alongside unfair dealing stood chivalry—on both sides, whether of those who “came out” on behalf of their fellow-workers, or of the great mass of people who joined hands to save the common life from disaster. Strange and humiliating indeed is the reflection that it seems to need some criminal folly or the shadow of catastrophe to call out the height of fortitude and generosity which is sorely needed for the work of every day!

But this is no moment for self-congratulation. If the “Toc H spirit” has been much abroad on both sides in these heavy days, the ultimate task of Toc H confronts us still. It is to make that spirit so prevail that there shall be no question of “sides” in this matter again. Something is wrong, not merely with the coal industry, but with the industrial system and with the spirit in which masters and men work. If we are honest we know that the thing which is wrong is in ourselves. “Let a man think of slums, and sweating, and prostitution and war,” writes William Temple in his little book (a very handbook of Toc H) on *Fellowship*—“Let him remember that these horrible things are there, not because some men are outrageously wicked but because millions of men are as good as we are, and no better.” Let every member of Toc H read the Four Points of the Compass again, and examine himself as to those things to which he is thereby pledged. The way of fellowship and service is not lightly found—but once we have truly entered upon it, and learnt to keep in it day by day, we may become fit “to challenge our generation to seek in all things the mind of Christ.”

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IS THE MAIN OBJECT OF TOC H PRACTICABLE?—I

The Hon. Administrator continues his series of articles, which began in the January number on the nature and aims of Toc H. The "objects" to which Toc H is committed—in the eyes of the law as well as in the wills of its members—are set forth in the Royal Charter, Article IV:—

"The Objects for which the Corporation is established and incorporated and for which the Association is to exist are:—

(1) To preserve amongst men, and to transmit to future generations, the traditions of Fellowship and Service manifested by all ranks during the Great War, thereby encouraging its members through the common Christian life of the Association, to seek God, and helping them to find His Will and to do it.

(2) To encourage amongst the members of the Association the desire to perform, and to facilitate the performance of, all kinds of social service as between and for the benefit of all ranks of society.

(3) To promote among all people a wide human interest in the lives and needs of their fellows, and to foster in every man a sense of responsibility for the well-being of his fellow man.

(4) To mitigate by habit of mind and word and deed the evils of class-consciousness, and to endeavour to create a body of public opinion free of all social antagonisms.

(5) To take over and continue and carry on the work of the existing Association (*i.e.*, *Toc H before the Charter*) and to take over all its property and assume responsibility for all its liabilities (including any property and liabilities of the Cavendish Association hereinbefore mentioned) and to be for all purposes the successors of the existing Association."

[NOTE: Toc H was started in order to maintain the fellowship of Talbot House, which was "plainly too great to lose." The first attempt to define its purpose formally was in the report printed in 1920 as follows:—

"To preserve among the ex-service men of all ranks, and transmit to the younger generation, the traditions of Christian fellowship and service manifested on active service."

Later in 1920 the "Four Points of the Compass" was prepared, not to supersede this, but to supplement it. It was called then and still is called "A further statement of our aims as we begin to see them." When the Charter was drawn up the original Object was set out in these words:—

"To preserve amongst ex-service men and to implant and preserve in others and transmit to future generations the traditions of Christian fellowship and service manifested by all ranks of the British Army on Active Service during the Great War."

The other Objects were set out exactly as they are printed above. Objects 2, 3, and 4 were intended to cover the first Three Points of the Compass in so far as they are not already covered by Object 1. No explicit reference was made in the Objects as drawn up in 1922 to the Christian character of Toc H. A few of the people responsible for drawing up the Charter may have thought it undesirable to do this. Most people simply thought it was unnecessary as being plain to everybody who cared to look. When, however, at the Birthday Festival of 1922 Toc H realised that it was becoming a national movement, and that the family had acquired under the Charter very full powers of self-government, they also realised that the Charter failed to safeguard what was quite essential. That is why Art. IV (1) was altered in 1925 to the form in which it now stands. This was done very deliberately. The principle of the amendment was accepted by two Councils and by the membership as a whole before the amendment was undertaken. It is, therefore, true to say that while the rest of Art. IV was drawn up for Toc H by a few of its members, the first Object in the form in which it now stands has the whole weight of the movement behind it.]

TOC H exists, first and foremost, not for any advantage to its members, not to do any particular things or jobs, but to pass on a spirit—the spirit of Christian fellowship and service shown by all ranks in the Great War. Whatever Toc H does, however big it may grow, if that spirit dies, if we cannot pass it on, Toc H is dead—dead at the heart of it—and we have been false to our trust. Or else, we have been set, or have set ourselves, to do something which is not practicable.

In the last two numbers of the JOURNAL I have been asking questions about three of the Four Points of the Toc H Compass. For several reasons I propose to leave until later discussion of the Fourth Point—"to spread the gospel without preaching it." If that is not meant seriously, it is obviously an outrageous thing to say. If it is, it will be useful to get a few more "cross-bearings"

before asking what it really means. Also, it is open to anyone to say that the Four Points are not actually binding on members of Toc H. In a formal sense this is quite true. A man joining Toc H to-day is not required to "sign on" to the Four Points, but only to say that he has read them. What he does "sign on" to is the statement of the Objects of Toc H in Article IV of the Charter as amended in 1925. And further, the Four Points are not, and were not intended to be, anything more than a supplement to the Main Object, a "further statement of our aims." In the note above I have set out the Main Object in all the forms through which it has passed. All of them declare that Toc H primarily exists to pass on the spirit of Christian fellowship and service shown in the Great War. The question is whether in any real and serious sense this *can* be done; whether we are hitching our waggon to a star without either the intention or the power to follow where it leads.

I think before we go on we had better sharpen our recollection of what the spirit was that we are to try to maintain and pass on. There is a difference between "not forgetting" and really remembering. I propose to quote a few words from Donald Hankey's "Student in Arms." These are parts of a passage of which his editor, Mr. Strachey, thinks a great Commander might say, repeating the words of General Wolfe, that he would rather have written it than have won a general action. Donald Hankey is writing of those he calls "the lost sheep," men who had made a thorough mess of their lives, men entirely unrespectable, apparently quite useless, until they "got out." Then—

"Their spirits effervesced. Their wit sparkled. Hunger and thirst could not depress them. Rain could not damp them. Cold could not chill them. . . . They did not endure hardship, they derided it. . . . Never was such a triumph of spirit over matter. . . . If they lived amiss, they died gloriously, with a smile for the pain and the dread of it. With a gay heart they gave their greatest gift, with a smile to think that after all they had something to give which was of value. . . . They had been lost, but they had found the path which led them home; and when at last they laid their lives at the feet of the Good Shepherd, what could they do but smile?"

Those were "the lost sheep." What of the men who had not made a mess of their lives before they joined up, men who quite obviously had real gifts, great or small? What of amazingly gifted people like Donald Hankey himself, and many, many others whom we can think of at once?

Lots of people think that the way we look back to the war, our lamps, our ritual, are merely sentimental. They are clear that the world wants not sentiment, but facts, and sometimes hard facts. I think they are right: but I also think the word fact is used very often in a sense that is quite trivial and wrong. Unless we are as the beasts that perish, the truly interesting facts—and I suspect some of the hardest—must be spiritual facts. The "triumph of spirit over matter" which Donald Hankey brings home to us so clearly—was that a fact or was it not? Was not the existence of that spirit, so intense, so

widespread, so single-minded, one of the hardest facts about the war? We have revised our opinions since as to many things which we thought facts at that time. Have we revised our opinion of that? If not, then to try—however feebly, so it be sincerely—to maintain and pass on that spirit is among the least sentimental of things.

But is it practicable? Circumstances are so utterly different. Notoriously things have always been done in times of war or great stress which simply do not happen at other times. This wonderful spirit—the critics with complete sincerity acknowledge how wonderful it was—was provoked, stirred up, called out, by the war. Doubtless in another frightful crisis it would appear again, but—

We must admit, at once, I think, that the war called out this spirit. But the really interesting question is not what evoked the response, but what made it *possible* for an immense number of men, many of them quite ordinary, many of them—on normal standards—much worse than ordinary, to show this spirit, to be as wonderful as quite clearly they were. What sustained it, and them? The widespread “triumph of spirit over matter,” repeated countless times, suggests, I think, to a really impartial mind, that somehow new energy had been released from somewhere, that a new driving force, of tremendous power, had suddenly found that masses of men, previously quite unamenable to it, unadapted to it, had become “transformed” into its willing servants. That may be fanciful, but the people whose opinions I have just been trying to set out would laugh at me if I said that the electric train I came up in this morning started *because* the guard blew a whistle and the driver moved a lever. A great spiritual fact requires an adequate cause as much as a physical one.

I want if possible to get somewhere near the basis, the foundation, of “the spirit of Christian fellowship and service shown by all ranks in the Great War.” In thinking of it let us take two ideas with us. We need to remember how during the war things were short-circuited and speeded up. Men literally jumped to conclusions, staking everything on them. How quickly did many men in order to go to the war, break off all that they were doing or had ever hoped to do! How very much more deliberate those very same men would be if, under the conditions of to-day, the idea of a similar breaking up of their normal lives came into their heads as a thing that ought to be faced! The other idea underlies a remark which the American Admiral Mahan made long before the war, that the real business of *force* in the world is to provide time and space for *ideas* to take root. Behind the horribly brutal facts of the war there was, we have seen, a spiritual fact, the existence, widespread among the men who fought, of a spirit of friendship and service and singlemindedness which to this day simply dazes us if we recollect it clearly and face it fairly. This spirit grew in the furnace of war, when all seemed to be dominated by force. Is it really true that a space was being cleared that ideas might take root, deep and wide? They must have been very great ideas, if so terrific a price had to be paid that they might live. In all that turmoil, *was* death really becoming creative?

Now let us stand right back from the war. Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh University, published last year a book, fascinating if rather difficult to read, called "Landmarks in the conflict between Science and Religion." He starts the chapter in which he "sums up" by recalling the legend that Henry Drummond, when a child, said that if he had been God, he would have made all things red like the inside of a penny trumpet. Starting from this he goes on to point out that the material universe we live in is not any old kind of universe but a very definite kind, a particular kind. Things happen in it in one sort of way, and *not* in other ways, which might perhaps be just as good, or better. For example—I am paraphrasing with great freedom—grass is green, and not purple or orange or a delicate shade of puce—colours which many people prefer. The force of attraction between two bodies in the universe—say, the earth and the moon—varies, among other things, as the *squares* of the distance between them. It might have varied as the cube of the distance, but it doesn't. It is agreed that there are "laws" about the way things happen in this material universe, that it is full of hard facts. Men have only gradually been discovering what particular kind it is, how things happen in this way, and *never* in that, finding out the hard facts about it, things which remain facts whether men understand them or not, accept them or not, like them or not. And among these facts are some which are specially important, which are, as it were, master-keys which unlock many doors, which explain what was before quite beyond explanation, and which, in the doing of this, verify themselves, prove themselves true. When Isaac Newton discovered the principle of gravitation, he provided men with one of these keys. His laws "when applied to the heavenly bodies accounted for all their movements," and explained things which had puzzled men for centuries. But the doors were not unlocked for those who would not use the key. There was no explanation for those who would neither listen nor try the explanation out.

But Professor Simpson does not stop at material things. He goes on to argue that the universe we live in, on its spiritual and normal side, is also, not any old kind of universe, but a very particular kind; that here, too, there are laws, hard facts, which remain facts whether men like them or not, understand them or not, disobey them or not. And he sees among these laws, as among the others, some which are of special importance; which are keys which unlock many doors—to those who will use them; which are explanations which really explain—to those who will listen and try them out. And he sees Our Lord as One who really knew these laws, these hard facts, and was trying to tell us about them—if we would listen—what we need to know. "How often," said Peter, "shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?" We all remember the answer. "Forgiveness," says Professor Simpson, "is, according to our Lord, to be carried to its extremest length *because* it is both the highest wisdom and of the very nature of God. It is a fundamental attitude, an elemental law of living in this particular world, which a man can never abandon without the most serious consequences to himself." The law of forgiveness, it would appear,

is one of what I have called the hard facts of the world we live in. It is, of course, easier to defy it than it is to defy the hard facts which we call the laws of gravitation. At any rate, it appears to be easier.

In August, 1924, we published in the JOURNAL an article by Alec Paterson, called "Foundations." It began "There are two sorts of people *only*—the givers and the getters. The motives of service and of acquisition are directly contrary, and are at the root of conduct." And it ended by saying of the man who has decided to base his life on service that "he will learn that the eternal gifts come only to those who in their turn have given all they had." Thus it began and ended with the two "hard facts," which I think specially concern us now:—"Whosoever would be great among you shall be your servant," and "Whosoever would save his life shall lose it." I just suggest that what the Elder Brethren of Toc H—and very many others—did in the War was to dare to take these hard sayings of Our Lord "at their face value," to accept them as hard facts, to act as if He meant what He said, and knew what He meant, to take them not as subjects for argument, or for emotion, but as things to be tried out to the limit. And I think they found them true. It is true that very many of the men who gave their lives for us in the war did not think of what they did in this sort of way, did not acknowledge Our Lord, or know or understand Him at all. But surely obedience matters more than understanding. We cannot always understand. I do not think that any of Donald Hankey's "lost sheep" who truly laid their lives at the feet of the Good Shepherd found that He failed to understand—or to acknowledge them.

If the foundation, the basis, of the spirit we are to maintain and pass on was, as I think it was, the frank acceptance of hard facts which Our Lord tried to tell us, then we are not likely to succeed if we build on any other foundation. Even if we are right so far, even if we have discovered the foundation on which we must build, we are brought back to the objection with which we started. Circumstances *are* so different. We must ask also whether, placed as we are, we really can build on this foundation. But I cannot do that now. I can only say that we none of us truly know whether it is easier to do one desperately fine thing, or to go on doing steadily a lot of little things that do not seem to matter very much—or to try to do them and fail. And I can just state, and then leave till next month, the ideas for which I think the deaths of the Elder Brethren "cleared a space." One was that the supreme reality here and now is spiritual, and that compared with that nothing else matters at all. Donald Hankey's lost sheep smiled at death, but they knew that the manner of it, the way they faced it, mattered immensely. And the other idea was that the Christian life is above all a great venture, a thing to be tried out and proved by trying to live it. "Prove all things" was said to the faithful Thessalonians, not to the man in the street. If we find that these were the ideas for which the Elder Brethren died, we shall see that the phrase about "death becoming creative" is not just a phrase. For these ideas, grasped and held, make "dead" men live.

P. W. M

TOC H FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE—II

OUR first article has, we trust, established one truth incontrovertible in the minds of our brethren of the towns: that if Toc H is to be a natural growth of our countryside, it will shape itself in form and method along lines very different from those of typical town Branches. Indeed, the characteristic features of the work of a strong town Branch seem quite ludicrously inapplicable to the country. But we are challenged by the thought that it is the genius of Toc H to adapt itself—and be equally at home in Poperinghe and the Salient, in Bermondsey and Buenos Aires, in Winnipeg and Calcutta. For Toc H after all is a soul—with a Charter—and it goes not to impose a form, but to breathe a spirit. It takes men as they are and where they are, and bands them together in this spirit to go where this spirit leads them and act as this spirit prompts them.

Therefore if anywhere a group of countrymen desire wholeheartedly to adopt the ideal of Toc H and to accept the "Four Points of the Compass" as their guide, let them proceed to form a Group, and not stay to grieve because they have no local habitation, and cannot meet for supper once a fortnight, nor hope to tackle corporately a "Toc H job," nor adopt any other *methods* of the first-class city Branch. The thing that matters is the *spirit*, and that we bind ourselves together to maintain that spirit and to foster it.

Every Group, however, looks forward to the day when it may claim to be given Branch status. And as it seems likely that there will be many such in the not-distant future, the Countrymen's Council (*alias* "The Hayseeds") have been trying to set down certain elementary principles for their guidance and to make certain arrangements with the Central Executive on their behalf. The first of these principles for Countrymen's Branches we proceed to discuss.

THE WORKING UNIT OF A COUNTRYMEN'S BRANCH.

1. The question of the *ideal area or unit* of a Countrymen's Branch is a matter of considerable importance and one to which not a little thought and study has been given. As the result, we are unanimously of the opinion that generally a single village or country parish would not make a satisfactory unit for a Branch of Toc H. A Branch within a parish would tend to become a parochial Branch; and Toc H has never been parochial. Besides, in the country, everything that is parochial tends to run in set grooves, and it would be hard even for Toc H to avoid the ruts of centuries. We should get the old conventional grouping: the Vicar in the Chair, the Schoolmaster for secretary, the Squire's son for treasurer, the Blacksmith and the Free Church Minister as leaders of the opposition and so forth every time—or whatever is the traditional arrangement of offices in the particular parish. And if the Vicar left and were succeeded by one "who knew not" Toc H the whole thing might be upset. Or Toc H might become *merely* the appanage of a flourishing Men's Club—subject inevitably to the fluctuations of these very variable institutions. Even in ideal conditions (and guaranteed to remain ideal if such were possible) a Branch in

a single village or parish would hardly command the variety or exemplify the comprehensiveness and upsidedownness (wherein, as in New Testament apocalyptic, the last are first and the first last) nor the freshness of grouping, nor the guarantee of permanence which the Guards of the Lamp must require of every Branch.

Therefore it seems clear that the Central Executive must be advised, before any Group is admitted to Branch status as a Countrymen's Branch, to require that it shall have already overflowed the limits of a single village or parish, and shall have established itself firmly in two or preferably four or five villages or hamlets in a district.

Yet clearly provision must be made for the members in each village or parish to get together for fellowship and to plan their corporate work, much of which may very rightly be essentially parochial. And it is proposed that they be grouped into a *Wing*, with a Jobmaster of their own choosing. Thus each Wing will have a practically independent sphere of its own and yet be part of the Branch which will stand for the larger outlook and for co-operation between the Wings and which should aim to represent a true cross-section of the life of that part of its Country.

While Wing Meetings may be frequent, intense and practical, *Branch* "rallies" need be held only four times a year and should have carefully prepared programmes such as will hold the Wings together and keep them in touch with the larger thoughts and the plans and cares of the Toc H Family.

The Executive Committee of the Branch will consist characteristically of the Jobmasters, with a few Officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Job-Overseer) elected by the Branch as a whole, together (if they wish) with a few co-opted members. They would meet for common counsel and for mutual help, to arrange co-operation between the Wings, to plan the consolidation and extension of the Branch (and the work of a Flying Squad for pioneering in the neighbourhood) and to organise the Branch Rallies. They would retain, of course, responsibility for election of all new Members, but if circumstances required it there seems no reason why the Ceremony of Initiation should not be performed by the Branch Padre at a properly constituted Wing Meeting. He would take the Branch Lamp with him for the occasion. Each individual Wing, even though it may consist at first of only five or six members, should be granted a Rushlight—so long as it is judged by the Branch Executive (which should review all its Wings annually) to be doing its part. Thus Wing and Branch would guarantee the intimate touch and the larger view, the concentration and the comprehensiveness, the versatility and the stability that Toc H sets out to achieve.

NOTE.—In this article we have had in view a country area consisting of a group of villages of more or less equal size. Some modification of the scheme may be necessary where there is a natural centre of population, encircled by small villages or hamlets, which might rightly become more than a mere Wing: its Lamp might be the centre or sun of a system of planetary Rushlights.

"THE HAYSEEDS."

ENGLAND SOBER AND ENGLAND FREE

Toc H as a movement has no "policy" with regard to alcoholic drink. Some of its members are total abstainers, others are not; none, let us make bold to say, are habitual drunkards. However much the opinions and practice of members in this matter may vary, drink, as a social problem, demands their serious thinking as much as any other living question of everyday. We therefore print the following article in the hope that it may stimulate private thought and perhaps the corporate study and discussion of Branches and Groups. The writer is a man of admitted knowledge of the subject: he wishes to remain anonymous, but that does not prevent us from expressing to him our gratitude for a real contribution to Toc H.

IS there a drink problem? There is. The short proof is that a Conservative Government has appointed the Committee now sitting under Lord Southborough to inquire into the conduct of the drink business and to consider whether, by the adoption of certain principles, the licensing law might be advantageously amended. Another, not less convincing, proof is supplied by the drink trade itself. In the last few years it has made repeated attempts to promote amending legislation. A longer proof would concern itself with the annual total of convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales among men (more than trebled in six years) and among women (nearly doubled in the same time). It would also set out corroborative tables of deaths from certain tell-tale diseases and corroborative testimony from those whose work brings them first-hand knowledge of the facts. It is very improbable, however, that any disinterested person of average experience would deny the existence of "a drink problem." We may conceive of the drink problem in varying terms. We may propose to move towards its solution in varying ways and at varying speeds. But it exists. Since it exists, no member of a civilised community can escape her or his share of the responsibility for dealing with it. Part of the common duty of thinking out what action is required and why is laid upon each. The conclusions may differ. That is not important, provided they have been reached by honest and unprejudiced minds. It is the thinking out which counts.

Broadly, there are two ways of looking at the drink problem. Some rely upon the progress of purposive social evolution, upon the education of the individual, upon rising standards—moral and economic—of life, upon new ideals of physical fitness and the like, to gain more and more control of the drink habit until its influence and its consequences have shrunk to negligible proportions.

Others seek to abolish the drink habit by abolishing drink, in the way that the United States have attempted. The merits of that view do not call for discussion here. National Prohibition, right or wrong, has not even a remote chance of adoption in Great Britain. We may rule it out of a practical discussion.

There remains the other way. Are we satisfied with the progress up to now? Plainly not, or there would be no drink problem to talk and think about. As Individuals, there is more for each of us to do in the way that each can. But, if we rule out Prohibition, do we rule out all forms of collective action? The

State cannot "make men sober by Act of Parliament." But can the State do nothing more than it has done to meet the admitted problem? Before that question can be answered, a glance must be taken at the existing relationship between the State and "the Trade," as the private liquor trade conveniently terms itself.

Conveniently—and significantly. "The Trade" is *the* trade, like every other trade so far as its commercial organisation and purpose are concerned, but marked off from every other trade because it cannot be allowed a perfectly free hand. It deals in a commodity peculiar among all commodities that enter into general consumption. That has been recognised for centuries. The peculiarities of drink (the term will be used here to describe alcoholic drink) were not invented by crafty puritans nor is the drink problem the handiwork of temperance cranks. What is called the Temperance Movement is barely a hundred years old. But as early as the fifteenth century the State was forced in the interests of public order to give the local magistrates authority over inns. The Tudors established more elaborate regulations. They had no "Pussyfoot" bias. From that day to this the aim of the State has been to tighten up its control over drink-makers and drink-sellers because their interests and civic interests could not well agree. The result of it all is the modern licensing system, the main lines of which were laid down in the eighteenth century, long before the "nonconformist conscience" had begun to influence British legislation.

What is the licensing system? It is a system of limited or monopoly trading conducted under licence and under statutory regulations, by private traders mutually competing for profits. It is a system which attempts to reconcile a conflict between the State and the Trade. The State is out for sobriety, public order and public health. The Trade is out for profit, for a return on the capital it has adventured or the careers it has embarked in the business. Is the Trade out for drunkenness? Certainly not. If alcohol could be consumed in millions of gallons, as now, per annum without damage to health, order or morals, none would be better pleased than the Trade, because there could then be no drink problem, any more than there is a bun problem or a boot problem. What the Trade is out for is the maximum profit which every trader is out for. If it were not out for that, it would not be a trade but a lunatic asylum.

It follows that, while the State, concerned for at least 375 years to limit and discourage consumption, pulls one way, the Trade pulls another. What, for the State, are "restrictions on drinking" are, for the Trade, "restrictions on business." And both are right. Brewers are no more evil than bakers, distillers than dairymen, publicans than potters. The blame is on the system and on us who permit its continuance.

The worst consequences that follow from the "system" of trying to run a business as something ordinary and extra-ordinary in commerce at the same time are two.

I. The Trade is forced into politics. The Trade, as a trade, views Parliament

not as the instrument of good or better government, but as a place where men called social reformers may legislate to the disadvantage of profits. Where profits may be, and at times have been, threatened, profits must be defended. The best strategy for the defender is attack. And the Trade attacks ceaselessly without waiting for the attacker. It has its own formidable trade defence organisations and ample defence funds; it has, so to say, a loud speaker in every public-house; it subsidises platform orators; it uses the Press where it can; and of late years it has taken to financing propagandist societies that have no outward or visible connexion with itself. All this immense weight is thrown into any political issue that in any way touches the Trade and against any reformer whose reforms are not commercially palatable or injurious to the economics of the business. Can you blame it? The Trade must either be profitable or bankrupt. Equally, can you approve a condition of things under which social policy has to satisfy or suffer the powerful obstruction of a purely commercial interest? The State, as three Prime Ministers have testified, in trying to make the Trade its servant, has very nearly made it its master.

II. Just as the Trade is an obstruction in politics, so is it a brake on that general educational progress to which, rather than to Prohibition, the average thinking citizen looks for a gradual solution of the drink problem. Against it, in the first place, is cast what might be called the whole influence of the hoardings. The millions which the Trade spends annually on advertising, in all its forms, are, in this connexion and in effect, millions spent upon mass-suggestion safeguarding the drink habit. If there were no advertisements, insisting daily and at every turn with all the legitimate art of the publicity expert upon the attractions of good drink, the wheels of education would find less friction and an easier gradient. Trade propaganda is drink propaganda. Anyone can make his own estimate of the handicap which drink advertisements impose on progress from the data which the passage of an ordinary day in any of our towns will supply. Apart from that, the Trade specifically opposes any attempt, for example, to spread the teachings of modern medicine on the subject of alcohol. The health syllabus issued by the Board of Education has been bitterly resisted by the Trade. If you teach people that they can do with very little alcohol and that, while it may be harmless in very moderate quantities, no one is physically any the better for taking it, you may have the doctors with you, but you are "attacking a legitimate industry" and "threatening the livelihood of honest men." And so you are. But it will not be your fault nor the Trade's, but the fault of an outworn system.

In short it is an utter anachronism that the dynamic of private enterprise and profit should be applied to beverages containing a drug which, whatever its amenities, is harmful to nation and individual in the proportion in which it is consumed, and certainly harmful, socially and economically, at the present level of consumption. The Trade should no longer be a trade. The demand will always be there. It requires no stimulation. On the other hand it requires the free play of education in the broadest sense with none of the artificial obstructions now put in its way by a vested interest.

Withdraw the stimulus of private profit. This is what is understood in the formula of "disinterested management." It stands to reason that the Trade cannot apply it. The Trade has made some play with the principle in appointing to a few public houses salaried managers with no commission on the sale of drink. But "disinterested" managers, paid by salary, acting on behalf of deeply interested manufacturers, rewarded according to their profits, are mere window-dressing. Moreover, in the conflict above described between State and Trade, it is not so much the publican as the brewer and distiller who matter. They have the funds and they control the policy. Disinterested management means disinterested manufacture or nothing at all.

This, then, is the logic of it. Transfer the whole monopoly of the liquor traffic to a board of production and management like the new Electricity Authority which the Government is proposing to set up. At one stroke the change would stop drink advertising, stop the flow of Trade money into politics, terminate an undesirable political influence, stop a general propaganda on behalf of the drink habit, which needs no propaganda.

The change could be made at a stroke. But it is more practicable and wiser policy to follow the settled, 500-year old tradition of English licensing policy, and let localities decide each according to its need. At present it is the local licensing magistrates who exercise the discretion which the law allows. That practice is the inheritance of past centuries. A modern democracy must be trusted and permitted to take its decisions for itself. Under local option it will, as it already may for purposes of public health, sanitation and education.

Hitherto Local Option, as commonly advocated, has only offered the restricted choice between the drink business as it is and no drink at all. A free choice would be between

- (a) drink as it is ;
- (b) drink in genuinely " reformed public houses " under a public authority constituted to meet demand, not to encourage it ;
- (c) no⁷ drink, with liberty to revert to (b) if subsequent experience so counsels.

This programme, something refreshingly new among proposals for licensing reform, was first embodied and worked out in detail in the Bill originally introduced into the House of Lords by the late Bishop of Oxford and commonly called the Bishop of Oxford's Bill. Its great merit is that it gives Local Option in England a constructive form. It accepts "graduality" and allows for the future teachings of experiment and experience. It is fair to the Trade in that it provides against change of any sort without compensation to members of the Trade who may be affected, from the highest to the lowest. It appeals to reformers, party and non-party, from the broadest platform. It has in fact received support in all parties. Its promoters have, as Bishop Burge said, put it forward, not as a work of literal inspiration but as a broad basis for discussion and action. It is an honest attempt to lift the drink question clear of politics where it has lain too long. It is an attempt to give the people its

free choice and its free experience of the three possible alternatives. Better, we have been told, England free than England sober. Where is this freedom, as long as the liberty of experiment and advance must be curtailed to suit the legitimate commercial requirements of the directors of breweries and distilleries? We want a new edition of the venerable tag. Better England more free and more sober. Such is the double purpose of the Bishop's Bill.

AN OUTLINE OF THE MAIN PROPOSALS OF THE BILL.

The Liquor (Popular Control) Bill was introduced three times (1921, 1923, 1924) into the House of Lords by the late Dr. Burge, Bishop of Oxford. (For a useful synopsis of the pros and cons of debate see *The Drink Question: Can It be Solved?* published by Longmans, Green & Co., 6d.).

It offers local areas three choices:—

(a) No Change; (b) Re-organisation; (c) No Licence.

The areas in which the local referenda would be taken would be:—

(a) Towns with more than 50,000 inhabitants; (b) Counties; (c) New housing centres of more than 1,500 houses.

A "No Change" vote would leave present conditions unaltered.

A "Re-organisation" vote would transfer the liquor traffic in the area to a central Board of Management, compensation being provided for dispossessed interests, employees not re-employed under the Board, etc.

A "No Licence" vote would prohibit the retail sale of intoxicating liquor in the area, clubs coming under the prohibition. Compensation would be paid to the dispossessed interests. If "No Licence" were defeated at a subsequent poll, the private interest, already compensated, would not return, but the area would come under the Board of Management.

The compensation proposed is on a generous scale. It would be administered by a Liquor Compensation Commission. It would be provided by a national Compensation Fund, accumulated, at no cost to the taxpayer, from:—

(a) Compulsory insurance premiums levied on the Trade, as is now done under the Balfour Act of 1904.

(b) Profits accruing to the Board of Management in Re-organisation areas.

(c) Sale of surplus properties, unnecessary breweries, etc., taken over by the Board.

The disappearance of competition under the Board would, of course, mean large and immediate economies in the working of the traffic. This is the experience at Carlisle where the system is already in being.

The Board of Management would not be a Government Department. Though ultimately responsible to the Home Office and Parliament, it would be constituted on the lines of certain other public bodies, e.g., the Port of London Authority. It would be assisted by a Central Advisory Council, representing consumers, local authorities, temperance bodies and the Trade, and, in Re-organisation areas, by Local Advisory Committees, to advise on local needs and policy. The Council and Committees would be unpaid.

Polls would be held locally in the fourth year after the passing of the Bill and at intervals of three years thereafter. Each elector is allowed an alternative vote. Should there be a rapid turnover to Re-organisation or No Licence, and consequently unexpected pressure on the Compensation Fund, the Home Secretary is empowered to delay polling to allow the Fund to accumulate. The Fund, however, would have £8,000,000 in hand (four years' accumulation) before the first poll.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

FOR the third year in succession the Central Council of Toc H held its annual meeting at Mark I. 74 Councillors (out of a possible 106) assembled there on the afternoon of Saturday, April 24. Apologies for absence were received from the following Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Councillors :—the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Forster, the Countess Grosvenor, Col. A. S. Bates (General Branch), Hon. I. M. Campbell (Cambridge), J. T. Gibbons (Bradford), J. E. Griffiths (Deeside), Rev. George Macleod (Edinburgh), Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard (General Branch). Eight padres, who were not members of the Council, had been invited to attend, and certain other members of Toc H were present; at the opening of business a resolution was passed giving all these the right to speak but not to vote.

The afternoon began with prayers, conducted by Padre Fleming, in the Popringhe Chapel of Mark I, which the members of the Council filled and overflowed. On returning to the Green Howards' Club-room, COL. REGGIE MAY, as Chairman of the Central Executive, took the chair, and called upon Tubby to address the meeting.

A VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.

TUBBY began by saying : " I rise to move a vote of very deep condolence on the death of one of our members, Padre H. Brewer, who was a great spiritual asset to Toc H, especially in Maidstone, where he was largely instrumental in forming the Branch. Brewer's death occurred a little while back, but I feel that it should undoubtedly be the subject of a Resolution from us to his family." The Council passed the Resolution in silence, standing.

THE SECOND DECADE OF TOC H HISTORY.

TUBBY then said that there was a text, and he did not know why it was not used corporately in Toc H, coming as it did straight from our Lord's lips—" Your loins girt, your lamps burning, and ye yourselves like unto men who watch for their Lord." He would not elaborate, indeed it needed in a sense no elaboration. It enjoined plainly those things which in part they were trying to achieve. Some of them had been for well nigh ten years gradually gathering and linking hands in achieving, by the grace of God, the foothills of this great endeavour, of which it was unlikely that any of them there would live to see the full destiny. He felt the difficulties that were before the Movement. They had ahead of them formidable heights upon which ultimately, by their hands or the hands of their successors, the beacon of this thing must be set and kindled, unless indeed, as he fancied, the beacon was already there awaiting the arrival of those who were to make it manifest among men.

They had to cultivate in Toc H that spirit which was the opposite of exaggeration in relation to the doings of a Branch or Group or of Toc H as a whole, under-phrasing it rather than over-phrasing it. There was a tendency amongst members—and in a measure he was guilty of it himself—a tendency to outcry other Societies, and to claim credit for work which they had not done. They now stood at the end of their first decade, and they should exhibit in a very silent way the power that was behind the Movement. It should be studiously humble, and, as far as possible, more quiet than in its childhood concerning any of the tiny tasks it accomplished. At the last meeting he was at in that room Colonel May produced a Mr. X, who told them something of the history of the Secret Service. There was in that very phrase, " secret service " a certain summing up of the character and nature of the service they were endeavouring to render to the cause of God.

He had little more to say beyond that they were intimately and greatly concerned with the little informal gatherings and mutual disciplinary arrangements that lie behind and underlie

a scheme recently adumbrated in the JOURNAL by Peter Monie.* He had fifteen years' experience of difficulty in trying to keep the rules under which he had been brought into the Christian life, and to which he had been truant. Therefore he did not feel it would be right for him to come forward at once to the adoption of the obligation of these wider, and probably far wiser, rules, which were to uphold that slowly growing number upon whom God had placed the main responsibility of Toc H. He had deliberately abstained from joining the League, not because he did not regard it as a thing of the utmost importance, but because it would put the danger of a "man-slide" upon a new and tiny thing which was feeling its way towards light. Therefore he thought it best that he and some others intimately concerned with Toc H should hold themselves back for the time being and not all at once be within that wonderful and remarkable body.

They must in Toc H be more quiet, more deeply conscious of the difficulties ahead of them. As they looked at those difficulties they could not conceive how victory was to be given to them, but there was, none the less, in all their minds a very deep conviction that God loved them and that He was leading them forward.

THE NEW CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

The following was put to the meeting and carried:—

That resolution 12 (a) † of April 26th, 1924 be modified to read as follows:—

"That the number of members of the Central Executive in addition to the 4 ex-officio members be fixed at 18, but that 16 Councillors only shall be elected and that the Central Executive be given power to fill the remaining two places by co-option."

At a later stage in the afternoon voting-papers were distributed, and before the end of the meeting the new Central Executive for the year was declared to have been elected as follows:—

London Members.

Rev. J. H. Bateson (*General*)
 Sir I. Hamilton Benn (*General*)
 David Boyle (*General*)
 Dr. L. F. Browne (*Mark VII*)
 J. H. Clark (*Mark VII*)
 Col. Sir R. S. May (*Mark I*)
 L. Prideaux Brune (*Mark VII*)
 H. U. Willink (*Mark III*)

Outside London.

F. W. Bain (*Liverpool*)
 Lt.-Col. J. C. Baines (*Leicester*)
 H. Leigh Groves (*Windermere*)
 Rev. M. P. G. Leonard (*Manchester*)
 T. R. W. Lunt (*West Kent*)
 Dr. J. B. McDougall (*Tyneside*)
 H. T. Michelmores (*Exeter*)
 H. Shiner (*Petworth*)

Ex-officio Members.

Rev. P. B. Clayton (*Founder Padre*) Wm. A. Hurst (*Hon. Treasurer*)
 Rev. H. J. Fleming (*Hon. Admin. Padre*) P. W. Monie (*Hon. Administrator*)

The rules for Central Council Elections, submitted by the Central Executive and printed in the February JOURNAL (pp. 69—70) were approved and adopted. (A notice about the rules, together with the names of members nominated by the Central Executive, will be found on p. 185 of the present issue).

* The League of the Lamp of Maintenance. See March JOURNAL, p. 95, and p. 185, of the present number.

† Resolution 12 of April 26th, 1924, reads as follows:—

"(a) That the number of members of the Central Executive Committee shall be 20 (in addition to the Honorary Treasurer), but that 16 only shall be elected, and that the Central Executive be given power to fill the remaining four places by co-option at such time or times as it thinks advisable;

"(b) That no lay member of the staff other than the General Secretary shall be a candidate for election;

"(c) That the eight members of the London Branches or the London General Branch who receive the highest number of votes among candidates who are members of such Branches, and the eight members of the remaining Branches in the U.K. (including the Country General Branch) who receive the highest number of votes amongst candidates who are members of such Branches shall be deemed to be elected."

REDUCTION OF A BRANCH.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY then moved "that the Central Council declare, under Article XI (8) of the Charter as amended, that the Farnham Branch shall no longer be a Branch of the Association." Ronnie Grant explained that the Branch had long ceased to function, and that its Lamp had been returned to the charge of the Guard, but added, amid applause, that half a dozen keen members in Farnham had determined to start again and to apply for registration as a new Group.

MARK I, SOUTH AMERICA.

THE HON. ADMINISTRATOR next explained that it was necessary to apply for an amendment to Article XVI of the Royal Charter in order to enable Toc H Incorporated to hold the new and valuable House in Buenos Aires according to Argentine Law; at present the House was held for Toc H by the firm of a member who had acted as the agent of the donor. Peter Monie then read the proposed amendment, without taking breath himself, but leaving the Council gasping. The text, which shows what an *entente cordiale* of English and Spanish lawyers can accomplish, is as follows:—

That the Charter of Incorporation granted to Toc H (Incorporated) by His Majesty on December the 14th, 1922, as altered, amended and added to by a Special Resolution of the Central Council passed on the 18th day of April, 1925, and duly confirmed by the said Central Council on the 4th May, 1925, the said alterations, amendments and additions having been allowed by His Majesty on the 16th day of December, 1925, be further altered, amended and added to in the manner following:—

"THAT the following words be added at the end, and so as to form part of paragraph (c) of Article V. 'and to acquire by purchase donation or in any other manner and to accept transfer of and hold and at any time freely to sell dispose of mortgage or otherwise alienate or deal with any property movable or immovable situate within any foreign Country or State (including but without prejudice to the generality of this power the Republic of Argentina) in accordance with the laws customs or usages of any such Country or State and to apply for and obtain from the Government of any such Country or State the legal recognition of the status of the Corporation as a juridical entity with power to acquire hold alienate and dispose of lands and for any such purpose as aforesaid to confer such powers or authorities as may appear to the Corporation to be expedient upon any person or body as Attorney Agent or Trustee for and on behalf of the Corporation in any such foreign Country or State.'"

The Council felt itself quite incapable of dissent.

FINANCE.

After the Council had approved, *nem-con.*, and confirmed the appointment of P. W. Monie as Administrator (unpaid) and Padre Herbert Fleming as Administrative Padre (unpaid) and of fourteen Association Padres (all unpaid—see their names in the list of officers in the April JOURNAL, Annual Report, p. i), the meeting settled down to the grave business of considering the Accounts for 1924-1925¹ and Toc H finance in general.

HURST rose, as Hon. Treasurer, to make a statement. He said that he was not going into the Accounts in detail, for members had no doubt studied—and understood them. Indeed he was in the position of the aged country parson who was watching the lads and lasses playing kiss-in-the-ring on the green one evening, when a village maiden, realising that it was growing late came up and said "Excuse me, vicar, but have you the time?"—to which he replied "No, my dear—neither the time nor the inclination." He would try to divide his comments on the financial situation into three more or less water-tight compartments—the past, which called for meditation; the present—contemplation; and the future—expectation and, he hoped, realisation.

At last year's meeting he had asked them to go back and put their house in order. The result (with the exception of two Branches with which he would deal privately) had, on the whole, been very satisfactory. In 1924 Branches with Houses had lost, approximately, £1,095: in 1925 they had made a profit of £726. In 1924 the auditors' report (that is the Headquarters' auditors, backed by the auditors of Branches) was very unsatisfactory indeed: this year—with the two exceptions referred to—it had been very good. So much for the past.

Now for the present—and first their new Headquarters. It had been said that the average Englishman objected to *any* headquarters, but in the opinion of the Executive the new H.Q. was absolutely essential in order to carry on the work. If Toc H was going to grow (as they believed it would grow beyond anything they could now picture) a central organisation was necessary in order to co-ordinate all that they had set themselves to do. The organisation was not only growing, but, as far as one could judge, was improving week by week.

They had man-power, but they had not the necessary financial power. He could claim, however, that their Executive were optimists, and wanted all of them to join and become co-optimists. There was a deficit on the year's Accounts, which, while it was in a sense very serious, was not a reason for despondency. Indeed the fact of a deficit should do them a great deal of good, for to have something to achieve, and to live to achieve it, was really worth while. Recently the Executive had discussed in considerable detail the possibility of a public appeal, but had reached the unanimous conclusion that they would not make one at this stage. It was, they felt, necessary to justify their position and the work they were doing in order that they might appeal to those who had the wherewithal to give. One member of the Central Executive had undertaken to devote practically the whole of his time during the next three months to seeing people who matter in order to raise substantial sums of money for Toc H. Everyone recognised that it was necessary to have money for the carrying on of the work, and it was for all members of Toc H to back the efforts of the one member who was thus giving his time. That was the chief point he wished to make this year—that every Branch and Group should plan and scheme to support the Executive in the raising of funds. Most of them might think that they could do very little—but he maintained that every single member of Toc H in his own particular district had a circle of acquaintance which he could tackle on this question. Let him do a little thinking, and he would find that he could do it—directly or indirectly.

With regard to an Endowment Fund—it was a terribly worrying existence for Headquarters and their Central Executive to have to live from hand to mouth, to be constantly faced with the problem of finding men to do the work and not having the money to do it with, or the money, for instance, to pay the modest salaries of their Padres. He appealed to them very seriously to make a really great effort, during the current year, to raise funds for the movement, apart from their membership subscription, in order that in the near future they might create an Endowment Fund.

In conclusion he wished to say that he believed their organisation at Headquarters and in the areas to be as good as they could hope for it to be on present finances, but they could not extend it without funds. He had that day received a cheque of £250 from a member in the North to start them off. They were very fortunate also in their Patron, who was with them over their new Headquarters and was backing them in the attempt to raise money by private means, without any publicity. He thought it was up to them that they should not fail in the near future to put Toc H on a sound financial basis.

Hurst's speech was received with loud applause, and the Councillors then adjourned downstairs for tea—and much talk. After the interval the Council proceeded to receive and consider the Annual Report, and at this stage (as announced in the notices of the meeting which had been sent out) "Reggie" May vacated the chair for a time, in order that a Councillor who was not a member of the Executive might preside and that matters arising out of the Report could be discussed informally as if the Council were a Conference. HENRY MICHELMORE of Exeter was unanimously voted into the chair, and various questions came up in the lively and useful hour which followed.

THE JOURNAL.

At an earlier stage of the afternoon the motion standing in the name of Wimborne Branch "*that the Executive be asked to take steps to reduce the price of the JOURNAL by one half*" had been on the paper, but EDWARD ASH (Wimborne) had risen to announce that his Branch wished to withdraw it. Opportunity was now given for free discussion on this, as on any other, subject.

ARTHUR GREENE (Norwich) after assuring an incredulous Council that he came not from Oireland but from East Anglia, then pleaded for the reduction of price from 6d. to 3d. per month. He produced, not *Punch* (as he had previously done at the Birthday Conference), but a "dummy" of 40 pages which a Norwich printer he had consulted said could be printed and issued at the lower price. He went on to calculate, in centimetres, the paper wasted in the margins of our present page, to indict the "luxuriousness" of the make-up, the yellowness of the covers and the stoutness of the envelopes used for the JOURNAL. He denied that its pleasant appearance was an asset to members or to strangers. He exposed with humour and vigour the innumerable fallacies in the notes of the editor and sub-editor on this subject in the April number (p. 151), and resumed his seat amid thunderous applause.

L. G. HARRIS (Mark II), speaking as a practising journalist, defended the JOURNAL in its present form. It is noticeable that he was also applauded—and there the debate ended. No vote was taken, but "No change" is assumed to be the verdict of Toc H as a whole.

HOW TO HELP THE FUNDS.

Councillors then reverted to the subject of the Hon. Treasurer's speech, and discussion was eager and protracted.

TUBBY said that Toc H was fast coming to the end of a definite period—the period of gifts, large and small, in memory of those who fell in the war. The original great support of this kind was fading and could never be repeated. He wished members to set a definite term of years before themselves in which to establish the movement on a sure financial foundation: they should concentrate on doubling its assets (*i.e.*, to the sum of £200,000) by 1930. It was absolutely necessary that they should free themselves of the anxieties of a hand-to-mouth policy in order to go forward with the great tasks which awaited them. As part of his personal share in this, every individual member should arrange to leave some sum, whether large or small according to his circumstances, to the Movement at his death.* In this way year by year, as time went on, money would be coming in and members performing a last service to Toc H.

Rev. J. H. BATESON (Central Executive), speaking from considerable experience of finance in connection with the Wesleyan Church, said that he had carefully examined the charges for administering Toc H, as shown in the Accounts, and they were certainly very small. He appealed strongly to members to do their share to the full in giving money, because that alone could make a strong case when they came to appeal for support to people outside.

H. T. MICHELMORE (Exeter), vacating the chair for a moment, gave the successful experience of the League of Nations' Union in raising money among its members by a system of "quotas," and advocated that Headquarters should fix the total sum they aimed at raising from members and should assess the quota of each Branch and Group, according to membership and "rateable value." G. H. WALES (Tunbridge Wells) supported this proposal, and F. W. BAIN (Liverpool) opposed it. L. F. BROWNE (Mark VII) thought the quota should be voluntary.

G. H. S. BURROWS (Reading) suggested that Branches and Groups should send half of their total subscriptions to H.Q., and G. E. KNIGHT (Portsmouth) also spoke on the point.

H. U. WILLINK (Mark III) advocated that all Branches and Groups should send up a free-

* A simple but sufficient form of bequest can be obtained on application to the Registrar at H.Q.

will offering quarterly, and that they should make a "birthday present" to the movement on their Branch Birthday.

Dr. J. B. McDougall (Tyneside) did not think it was the special obligation or prerogative of the Central Executive to be alone in raising money. Every Branch and Group in the country should realise that it was not London alone which was concerned with money-raising, but that—however excellent the local work Branches were doing—the work of Toc H as a whole needed great financial backing if it was to be of permanent significance.

W. S. ARMOUR (Belfast) followed this up by raising the question of local needs as against Headquarters' needs. His own small Branch had raised about £400 last year for various local activities, and he did not see how they could raise more.

P. W. MONIE (Hon. Administrator) said that the Finance Committee had decided to make no appeal to members until the matter had come before the Council which, they felt confident, would realise that, while schemes of Branches were in almost every case of importance, the Toc H movement as a whole had a bigger claim on the membership than any schemes of their own. It was far more important that Toc H as a whole should be put on its feet financially, so that people who had other things to do should not be spending (as they had been lately) an immense amount of time over the difficult question of getting sufficient money to carry on with. If they got the money, what were they going to do with it? They were not going to spend it on themselves at Headquarters. They did not pay their Headquarters' staff salaries: they gave them a subsistence allowance in order to enable them to live on a very modest scale. This money was wanted for the benefit of Toc H as a whole. Headquarters had a very strong claim on the Branches and Groups, and members would be asked through the JOURNAL to think very hard and very carefully upon this question of raising money. This money would come back to the Branches and Groups themselves in houses, chaplaincies, and other things, and also if they got enough they might be able to take under their wing schemes which had been started independently because they could not finance them, but which deserved their help.

H. LEIGH GROVES (Windermere) thought that, if there were any surplus, the question of a superannuation fund for their staff ought to be considered, and the CHAIRMAN said that this had not been lost sight of.

F. W. BAIN (Liverpool) urged Councillors to go back to their Branches and tell them that the administration of Toc H was "far too cheap for anything considering the scope of the movement." Members must bear their share of it.

Rev. H. LEGGATE (Manchester) pleaded that, balance-sheets being "a foreign language" to most members, someone should be sent to Branches to explain the financial situation. The response would then be greater.

T. R. W. LUNT (West Kent) noted a disposition on the part of many members to regard a 2s. 6d. subscription as the extent of their obligation to the movement. He asked that the Treasurer's speech should be followed up in the JOURNAL by more detailed schemes for helping Branches to help H.Q. Let them make this a year for consolidating the funds.

T. P. NORRIS (Radlett) said they did not need to be financiers to bring the matter home to members. When Herbert Fleming had explained the situation to their Branch the other night, they passed the hat round and got £14 on the spot. This little instance showed what could be done. Members needed a definite challenge. Many could not afford more than their subscription, but others could afford much more. He suggested that members should send 2s per cent. of their available balance at the end of the year as a donation to H.Q.

V. C. MARTIN (Oxford) suggested that members should make offerings to Toc H in memory

of friends or members of their family who had fallen in the war. Speaking "as a workman" himself, he could say that he and others he knew would be proud to do this.

Various forms of resolution and amendments were proposed, and finally the following Resolution was put to the meeting "officially" by Col. MAY, who resumed the chair, and was carried unanimously:—*"That the Central Executive be intrusted to prepare a statement of the financial requirements (1) of the Administrative Staff and Padres, and (2) of the Endowment scheme, and to appeal to the Branches to carry into effect the scheme so devised."*

MATTERS VARIOUS.

R. BROUGHTON (Sleaford) raised the question of the extent to which Branches ought to undertake to raise money for other organisations, and the general opinion of the Council was that it should be left to the discretion of individual Branches themselves.

A COUNCILLOR brought up the matter of unsatisfactory members and how to deal with them. "If a man is going to be in Toc H he must be *all* in it or not in it." H. U. WILLINK (Mark III) said that definitely disloyal members should be reported to the Central Executive, which alone had powers to deal with them, while F. W. BAIN (Liverpool) said that the usual difficulty was not with the disloyal but with the half-interested fellow. R. STATON (Sheffield) referred to the difficulties of his own Branch in this matter, and the HON. ADMINISTRATOR urged all Branches to read carefully the rules issued to them two years ago on the whole subject: so far the Central Executive had never been asked by any Branch to deal with any case which was not provided for in these rules. TUBBY maintained that the rules for the treatment of an unworthy member were explicit in the New Testament. Their duty would sometimes be to exclude a member from the fellowship of Toc H, but in every such case they must not rest until they had done everything in their power to bring him back into fellowship again.

The subject of various "bad hats" (not members!) who had been victimising Toc H Branches was brought up, and TUBBY was strongly of opinion that the duty of Toc H was to check their careers by handing them over to the police whenever possible.

THE SCHOOLS WORK.

BERESFORD INGRAM (Kennington) asked for information concerning the Schools work.

In reply, COL. R. C. GRANT (General Secretary) said they had set up an Advisory Committee for Schools work, which met about a fortnight ago. It included a representative from the Board of Education nominated by the President of the Board. It was decided at that meeting that they should try a new method by setting up an organisation to be called the Schools Service Bureau. There was a certain antagonism in the Schools as far as Toc H was concerned, and there was the psychological fact that a boy leaving school did not like to be badgered to join any particular society, and was suspicious of being exploited. So they proposed to establish this Bureau, which would register a boy leaving school who wished to interest himself in social service, either by study or practical work. He would receive a card showing that he was registered, and would be advised of the nearest Toc H representative, who in most cases would be the Jobmaster of the Branch or a selected member of the Branch. He would also be furnished with a list of books on sociology, economics, and kindred subjects. He would not be asked to pay any subscription. It would be left to the Jobmaster or selected member to put the boy in touch with a congenial job of work and get him interested in Toc H: the card would entitle him to attend meetings of a Toc H Branch and to Guest Nights wherever he might happen to be. The Chief Inspector of Schools, who had been appointed by Lord Eustace Percy, had furnished the Committee with a list of Secondary Schools, and the Special Inspectors who had been circularised had reported as to those Schools which were likely to be interested. Those Schools were going to be tackled wherever possible by local Branches of

Toc H. They also hoped to get their present School Correspondents to do rather more than send in lists of leaving boys at the end of term. They hoped those Correspondents in future would take the lead in the Schools, with the co-operation of the Headmasters, in bringing before the boys, especially the senior boys, the various industrial, economic, and social difficulties they would be up against when they left school. They also hoped, in co-operation with the Rotary and other people, to send speakers to the Schools to lead debates, &c. As far as the Secondary Schools were concerned they would have to rely upon the co-operation of the Branches; they could not possibly be dealt with from Headquarters. They particularly hoped that Councillors who had Secondary Schools in their neighbourhood would advise Headquarters as to the Schools to approach.

With Tubby's pronouncement of the Benediction the Council meeting, which had lasted five hours, came to an end, and members dispersed to their homes or trains, or to every variety of further discussion. B. B.

ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS: GENERAL BRANCH.

1. The Council Election Rules, published in the February JOURNAL, pp. 69-70, were passed by the Central Council on April 24, 1926.

2. Fifteen (15) members of Toc H are to be elected Councillors to represent the General Branch until the end of the Annual Council Meeting to be held in April, 1928.

3. The following 15 members have been nominated by the Central Executive under Rule A (1):—

Barclay Baron.	Rev. W. E. Drury.	Rev. M. P. G. Leonard.
Rev. F. R. Barry.	Rev. H. B. Ellison.	W. J. Musters.
Valentine Bell.	Lord Forster.	J. H. Palin, M.P.
R. R. Calkin.	Lt.-Col. R. C. Grant	Canon F. Partridge.
Lt.-Col. H. S. Davey.	Beresford Ingram.	H. Shiner.

4. Any two members of the General Branch *resident in Great Britain or Ireland* may nominate any other candidate by sending me a letter signed by themselves, stating the name of the candidate *and* enclosing a letter signed by the candidate himself intimating that he is willing to stand, provided that the letter reaches me at 1, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W. 1, not later than Monday, May 31.

5. It should be *noted specially* (a) that all members of Groups in Great Britain and Ireland are included in the General Branch for the purpose of this election; (b) that members resident out of Great Britain and Ireland are not entitled to nominate; (c) that members of regular Branches holding Lamps of Maintenance are *not* entitled to nominate.

R. C. GRANT, *General Secretary.*

THE LEAGUE OF THE LAMP OF MAINTENANCE

A NUMBER of members of Toc H and the L.W.H. have now agreed to try to keep the Common Rule of Life referred to in the March JOURNAL (p. 94) as "a quiet way of helping Toc H." They have adopted the title above. The Council of the League consists of the Rev. J. H. Bateson, the Rev. J. H. Fleming and the Rev. T. W. Pym, Jack Clark of Mark VII, Ronald Grant, Miss A. B. S. Macfie and Harry Willink. The forming of a number of "Households" of the League in various parts of the country is assured, as soon as the Council have formally appointed the Stewards. This will be done early in May.

Anyone who is interested in the idea can obtain information from any of the Padres or Area Secretaries who were able to attend the Central Council meeting on April 24, and I can supply copies of the Common Rule of Life to those who want it. P. W. M.

A NEW PILGRIM'S PROGRESS—XIV

IN the last chapter of Padre Harry Ellison's story (March JOURNAL, p. 99) readers learnt that he had been held up in Jerusalem by the illness of one of his party, had been compelled to alter his African programme, and was hoping to sail on another boat, the *Tanganyika*, on March 20. On the morning of that day at Port Said he wrote for the JOURNAL the report which follows, and in the afternoon he and Mrs. Ellison sailed—Southward Ho!—having shipped their invalid home. He had already ascertained by cable from Johannesburg that "a month's delay would not prejudice plans in that all-important centre," but he still had "no knowledge as to how this change would affect plans already made in other centres, and had had to rely on getting notice of this later arrival broadcasted to the many people who were expecting him, by means of the local press in each district." Our Pilgrim then reports as follows:—

"For the last three weeks we have been marking time, with what patience we could muster, at Cairo. I shall slay Mus or anyone else who murmurs anything about the 'fleshpots of Egypt,' and shall retaliate by sending home a batch of hotel bills and chits for cables to pay, if he is not careful! However, I have always had an old-fashioned belief in proverbs as well as Providence, and my chief occupation from now onward will be trying to trace the good effects of this particular ill-wind.

EGYPT, PALESTINE AND ADEN.

"I think that possibly one is already in evidence, and that the extra stay may have helped slightly in the direction of 'Toc H Egypt.' The position here is chock-full of interest and of possibilities. *Cairo* has gone very slow since the meeting early in February when they decided to form a Group. But Geoffrey Lunt's arrival (*from Northampton*) as Archdeacon, and the fact that some twenty-five splendid fellows have agreed to meet fortnightly during the coming hot weather and shake together and think out Toc H Cairo from A to Z, leaves one in little doubt as to what the future will bring. The soldier element here is strong, as in Palestine, and is a great asset. The presence of one keen American already augurs well for the breadth of membership.

"I was a bit anxious about *Alexandria*, as I had only paid a flying visit there and at very short notice. I found that I had to go there again—a month later and at about 18 hours' notice—to see our ex-invalid off to Europe, and it was great to plunge into a real Toc H atmosphere the moment I arrived—a small crowd of members to meet me at the station (all but bursting into *Rogorum*!), and a tea party in the afternoon at which for an hour and a half we got right down to the local problems and questions: finally the same escort to the station for the train back to Cairo at 7 p.m. Trevor Williams left them the same day for Suez, but they have great stuff in their new members, senior and junior. I think there are now only two old members, in the persons of Fred Lucraft (brother of J. L. of Maida Vale fame) and Grafton (late of Leicester). I, at all events, have had the joy of sanctioning their Group without one scrap of hesitation. 'It's an ill wind,' my boys, after all!

"I hope to get the *Suez* Group on board the ship to-morrow, so can say nothing about them as yet, but—with Pat Carroll (late of Mark III) and now Trevor Williams, let alone Padre Wilde—there can be small doubt about them." (This hope, however, was not destined to be realised, for "Uncle Harry" writes in a subsequent letter—"It was a desperate affair when we trudged past Suez late at night, with visions of Pat Carroll and Padre Wilde only a few hundred yards away—and only the agent and pilot allowed on board. Imagination plays strange tricks, and, even if I was wrong in thinking that I heard strains of *Rogorum* from some dim figures on

the pier as we glided by, one could visualise that small Group, guarding the entrance to the Canal, and I know that they were as disappointed as I was myself.”)

In order that Suez may not lose its proper place in the picture we will quote from a letter to Tubby written by Padre Wilde on his way back from England on board S.S. *Rawalpindi* on April 25: “A word about Suez Toc H. We are doing well—regular fortnightly meetings and suppers, and plenty of work. These are some of the jobs we have tackled—1. Cleaning up local Civilian Cemetery; 2. Visiting Hospitals; 3. Taking School in Padre’s absence; 4. Visiting and looking after ships’ crews; 5. Standing by the Church and bringing newcomers along. We have some really A.1 men . . . the whole show is in a very healthy state. We always end up in church, and I can tell you it’s a fine sight to see thirteen to twenty men going into church at 11 p.m. to close up with prayer. The movement has certainly provided for Suez something very definite for the younger men, and I am mightily grateful for your visit.” We are aiming for our Lamp. . . .” And now let “Uncle Harry” resume the story:—

“There remains *Port Said* itself. Here we were not able to have a regular meeting, as the day was unsuitable, but last night I had a great yarn with Padre Johnstone and two other first-raters. As a result H.Q. is to be bombarded for literature, and they will try for a good meeting in April, when Lunt has promised to come down from Cairo. (If omens can be relied upon, my own special brand of ‘Patience’ came out three times in succession as soon as I came back last night!) My belief is that Port Said too will soon make its mark in the Toc H calendar. From a world standpoint nothing could be much more desirable than a Toc H outpost at each end of the one and only Canal—calling-places for every Toc H wanderer in the years to come.

“For the rest, it looks as if an *Egypt-cum-Palestine Conference* may soon be in view. There is a whole heap of new—and valuable—enthusiasm and interest. Add to this the presence and co-operation in these parts of the few real Toc H stalwarts, lay and padre, and the result cannot be doubted in the long run. This is a corner of the world with quite exceptional possibilities, in view largely of its international character. But it also has its peculiar difficulties and problems from the point of view of jobmastery, as well as of that of the very cosmopolitan life to be found here. Toc H Palestine and Egypt will need the best of help that the Family can give it, both officially and otherwise, and I know that it will receive it.

“It occurs to me that I have said nought about *Jerusalem*. They are a small lot, as far as members go—and will possibly remain so, but are thinking and planning deeply under dear old Steer’s guidance. I think the best one can say is that their aim is to be worthy of their place of origin.” (In a letter to Peter Monic, written on the same day, he adds “Jerusalem can safely be left to the beloved Charles (*Padre Steer*). They are full of problems, but will come through. Tubby and Pat and you will realise how different it must all be from ordinary Christian countries, and I know that you will keep the closest possible touch with any small beginnings out here and pray for them like anything. I have a memory of a beloved lot of keen fellows, largely feeling their way at present. They should pull through finely.”)

We may add that Jerusalem Toc H not only stands its ground but has already made a sortie beyond the walls of the city—to *Haifa*, which lies at the foot of Mount Carmel on the Bay of Acre. The following note appears about it in the May number of *Lines of Communication*, the diocesan magazine: “The English Chaplain (*Padre Steer*) reports that he visited Haifa on April 25. . . . On the previous evening, Saturday, a number of keen men assembled at Mr. Spinney’s rooms to discuss the possibilities of a Toc H Group. It was unanimously and enthusiastically decided that Haifa is the very place, the present the very time, and the men the very stuff for a Group, and steps are at once being taken to spread the good news around, while the Chaplain has written to Headquarters in London to ask for permission to proceed.” Permission was given, and Haifa is among the new Groups registered this month.

In a letter written on board ship on April 1 to Peter Monie, "Uncle Harry" gives first news of *Aden*:—"We had a great afternoon at Aden, and I hope much that something may follow there. As soon as we dropped anchor, a launch came alongside with Roger Day, Guy Lanchester (both of the E.T.C.) and Makinson, who is in one of the coal companies there. I showed them round the ship and then we went ashore in Makinson's launch and did the sights. If Toc H Aden ever materialises and insists on being as generous to the Family as its three original members, I shall suggest that the Central Executive make an entertainment allowance to them for taxis! At tea-time we really got down to business. Their problem—as ever out this way—is (1) a sufficiency of likely members, and (2) what jobs they can get on to. Immediately after tea Day and I and the L.W.H. 'half-section' (*Mrs. Ellison*) motored up to the camp with the faint, but perspiring, hope of finding the Army padre (Wormald) in, so as to pick his brains. All was well and he gave us a great welcome and a lot of encouragement. Finally, at the suggestion that the other padre at the 'Crater' (some three miles off) was the man to see, we started again in procession—the padre leading us at 50 miles an hour!—and were again lucky in seeing our man, who was as full of enquiries and interest as No. 1. The upshot is that they are going to talk it over and try to get a soldier-cum-civilian Group together, (1) to study reports of Overseas Branches and Groups in recent JOURNALS, (2) to study '*How to build Toc H*' and its Australian 'opposite number.' If, in a few months, the way opens up, they will, I hope, register definitely as a Group."

THE EAST AFRICAN COAST.

The first direct news from our Pilgrim in East Africa came to Headquarters in the form of a cable which left Dar-es-Salaam on April 10:—"Send two hundred assorted literature Bridgeman, Superintendent, Eastern Telegraph, Zanzibar, for distribution East Coast—Ellison." This was followed by a letter, addressed to "My dear 'Journalists,'" written on board S.S. *Tanganyika* off Beira on April 13: "A six days' run, and then in quick succession Mombasa, Tanga, Zanzibar and Dar-es-Salaam. Nairobi out of the question, as we only stayed one night at Kelindini, its and Mombasa's harbour. A new pamphlet is really due from H.Q. (edited by Tubby and Pat) for Pilgrims, on '*How to build Toc H in Five Minutes*' with not an odd member within 1,000 miles or so!). It is really rather a hectic affair—this potted Toc H, but at least one can say that every man one meets is keen to know more than the mere fact that we have a funny name, that the Patron is keen, and that he lights Lamps once a year. (One realises more than ever what Toc H owes to him and to all that he does and says on its behalf: without his influence many small happenings in such parts as these would be out of the question). Six hours on shore at Aden; about the same at Mombasa; five at Tanga; twelve at Zanzibar; and a lordly three days at Dar-es-Salaam! Through force of circumstances—absence and so on—only one of my correspondents had been able to make preparations for a meeting—and that, at Mombasa, arranged by Padre Leach, was on Maundy Thursday, when half the men were up country on holiday. Still in each of these places men have listened keenly, have taken literature, have agreed to think out the Toc H idea during the next few months, and have received much advice, good and otherwise, culled from Toc H London experience and from the 'Big Two' of last year's Pilgrimage. Nine good men and true at *Mombasa*, three at *Tanga*, eighteen at *Zanzibar*, and twenty-five at *Dar-es-Salaam*: it will not be for lack of keenness if Groups are not soon reported from these places, and in any case not a few of the best men in them now understand our point of view and see eye to eye with us as regards possibilities. I must put on record the thanks of all Toc H to the men who, at the shortest notice, came together to hear the tale and have agreed to 'get down to it,' after many questions asked. May they prove the pioneers of a future East Africa Federation of Toc H! The other places visited were all too small as far as British population goes, the

largest number being the ten Eastern Telegraph men, self-contained in their own mess, at *Mozambique*. Our stay there was short, but it was a chance not to be missed to entertain two of them on board—if only as a small acknowledgment of the help and welcome given by their *confrères* up the coast.

“Possibly a new version of *Rogeron* (‘Now there was a poor man, and he lived in Dar-es-Salaam!’) is indicated for East Africa—or have we struck the original site of King Solomon’s mines? But don’t confuse Jerusalem and Dar-es-Salaam in your minds.

“And now, at long last, *Beira*—the first remote touch with my real Land of Promise, South Africa—and the first Toc H member on shore since Aden, in the person of Capt. Woodward. I hear that he is arranging one, if not two, meetings for me. As the mail does not leave for five days, I shall hope to put in a postscript as to doings or misdoings here. In spite of the heat, the L.W.H. ‘half-section’ has, I know, been ‘putting it across’ not a few of the ladies, but I will leave her to report in due course.

“P.S.—5 p.m. Woodward and Padre Young (who divides his time between Beira and Umtali, some 200 miles away) have just been on board. First meeting at 6 p.m.!

“P.P.S.—April 15. I can only say that I have never had a better Toc H meeting in London or anywhere, thanks mainly to the keenness of one solitary member, who has never met Toc H in the flesh, but has paid his subscription like a man—mainly, I gather, on the prompting of the headmaster of his old school. Forty of the best have agreed to form their Group here provisionally, and will, I believe, ere long be asking to be formally recognised. If Beira—in Portuguese territory—is a foretaste of what one may hope to find in its neighbour Rhodesia and in South Africa, there are great days on ahead. So may it be! Your remembrances are not being wasted.”

SOUTH AFRICA AT LAST!

First news of the campaign in South Africa, the main objective of our Pilgrim, came in a letter written to H.Q. on April 28 by C. N. Larkin of Johannesburg: “Mr. and Mrs. Ellison arrived here safely on the 20th instant. The campaign opened at Krugersdorp on the 26th. . . . At a meeting held last night in the centre of Johannesburg sixty-two men filed applications for membership, and the meeting at Krugersdorp was also very satisfactory.” The writer encloses cuttings from the *Star* (a long leading article on Toc H) and the *Rand Daily Mail* (a leader and a two column report of the Krugersdorp meeting: both papers reproduce the Patron’s letter to “Uncle Harry” in facsimile—see January JOURNAL, p. 28).

Thus from stage to stage the African adventure goes forward and the seed is sown. It is for us to follow up all the time in our thoughts, prayers and giving of thanks: our “remembrances are not being wasted.”

B. B.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

BARRY.—This newly-founded Group is a representative one, with Padre Dixon at the head of affairs. We were fortunate enough to be going in time to participate in the visit to South Wales of Padre Gilbert Williams. Our weekly meetings are going well, and we have a lot to do in consolidating the Group. Our guest-night was held on April 22, with captain “Scotty” Foster of the *Trevessa* as chairman and Councillor J. R. Llewellyn as our speaker. We certainly felt the result of

Padre Gilbert Williams’ visit, and he set a strong L.W.H. going. An outstanding feature of work has been two probationary cases; we have been successful in getting a fresh start in life for both of them.

SCROUNGER.

BELFAST.—An anonymous member placed a gallery at our disposal last Saturday for “Nancy Tangles the Strings,” and tickets were distributed among three of our parishes, soldiers, newsboys and the Training School.

In the Northern Parliament the Minister of Home Affairs referred to the services of Toc H in arranging concerts and lectures in H.M.'s Prisons. An educational scheme has advanced a further stage. There is talk of a camp for newsboys. Furnishing local headquarters has raised financial questions. Church Army members have initiated three discussions at recent meetings, and Mr. N. McNeile, B.L., enlightened us on "Currency." Motor-drives for soldiers will be the next piece of organisation. We are still the only branch in Ireland. PAT.

[Sir Dawson Bates, speaking in the Northern House of Commons on April 13, said that "he wanted to acknowledge the assistance that he had received from the prisoners' aid societies and from Toc H. The latter organisation had arranged monthly concerts and weekly lectures, which were greatly appreciated by the prisoners, and had greatly improved the prison discipline."—ED.]

BIRMINGHAM.—The proverbially murky atmosphere of Brum was nothing to the "fog" created at Mark VI on April 27, when a very large crowd assembled to hear Barkis. We were honoured, too, by the presence of many ladies, and we wish them every success in their efforts to revive the L.W.H. Peggy Lodge, on his way to the Central Council, gave us an excellent talk on Area Federation. Without doubt, much of the future work of Toc H in Birmingham lies in this direction. Les Abdy, who has just arrived, will be of great assistance to us in this. The recent "Jobmaster's Night" was a great success and is to be repeated periodically. We learnt much there about our own and other jobs. We are looking forward eagerly to Tubby's visit on May 18, and hope all old and new friends will roll up. DIRK.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE.—On March 31 we relinquished the management of a hostel which we had been running for a year—one reason being that the expenses entailed did not justify the need in this locality. A very successful whist drive has been run and on April 29 we are having a big dance at the

Royal Pavilion to clear off the debt. At our supper meeting in April "Freddie" Cook gave us a wonderful lantern lecture on "The Painters of Holland," and we are now looking forward to a visit from Padre Meade in May. Our Rovers attended the Scout Service held at St. Peter's Parish Church on St. George's Day, and on April 28 several of us (including our Rovers) are stewarding a display organised by the Juvenile Welfare Council at the Hove Town Hall.

BRISTOL.—We have had a good time this Spring. The House has been almost full, and we have had some very cheery and interesting guest-nights. At one, first A. Burgess told us about Bristol Docks; then Peter Monie came and spoke of many things; interesting tales were given by Bill Adams, J. A. Muirhead, and Mr. G. E. Fox; on March 11 Pat Leonard told us of the world tour and (to demonstrate the variety of interests) H. W. Turner followed this up on "Geology." Bill Gange is back among us from New Zealand, but we are very sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Parry from the House; the traditions of Mark IX's kitchen are now upheld by Mr. and Mrs. Riches. But now—away to the nets in preparation for the summer's campaign! BRISTOLIENSIS.

BROXBORNE.—A new Group was formed here in February last and is going strong. At the outset four of the Group visited Tubby, who said he could give us ten minutes if we could meet him at 7 p.m.; at 9.30 we were still there! A Whist Drive organised to start funds was very successful. Barclay Baron came along as our guest to the first guest-night, and we need only say it was a great success with a capital S. Our problem is that our locality consists of half and half—agricultural and city workers—and the blending of the two is going to present an interesting piece of work. We are now starting on a thorough local survey on similar lines to those suggested in the March JOURNAL. The Group all turned up to the first concert given by the Cheshunt Branch of the King's

Services Choir, composed of local shell-shocked and disabled men, who, although most of them had lost their speech, rendered a first-class programme. We are anticipating a large volume of work in connection with these men, particularly in acting as escorts to them on their visits to hospitals for treatment.

CARDIFF.—Transcending all our joys—as members of the family has surely been in helping Padre Gilbert Williams with his mission in South Wales; for whereas previous visits of Tubby, Barkis, and other leading lights lasted a night, or at the very most a week-end, the “Brum” Padre stayed with us, or round about us, for twelve whole days (April 10-22). We knew a little of Padre Williams before, but he quite surprised us. During his stay here, he delivered at least six sermons, including one at Llandaff Cathedral, at the special invitation of Dean Worsley; visited Maesteg Branch, Newport (Mon) Group, and “contacts” at Barry, Porth, Bridgend, Swansea, Merthyr, and other places. He has certainly worked night and day, and one hopes that Birmingham will give him a little peace before he sails for South Africa in June! His counsel and encouragement has been of tremendous help to us as a Branch, while the contribution he has made to the movement generally by developing this area will be seen later. Co-operating with Padres Clark (Cardiff) and Turton Dixon (Barry), Padre Williams has once more interested the civic heads of this city in Toc H. The result is that Tubby has been good enough to promise to speak at a luncheon at Cardiff on May 6. Padre Clark concluded the Lenten “Upper Room Nights” with a stirring address on “Liberty in Religion” on the evening of Thursday, March 25. A concert, organised by Bill Stretton, jobmaster, for Rookwood Hospital at Llandaff, was given, on April 23; the previous week stewards were forthcoming for a dance under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind at the City Hall.

A. T. M.

COALVILLE.—Our Group is making steady progress, and meetings are well-attended. We were greatly cheered by a visit on April 20 from Mrs. Gilbert Williams, who was supported by our own little band of Toc Emmas. The stable in which we meet, illuminated for the first time by electric light, presented an attractive appearance, and a big bunch of imploders from Mark XI helped to increase the warmth of the meeting. For the first time in our history, the ceremony of “Light” was performed by a member of the fair sex, Mrs. Williams kindly accepting the chairman’s invitation to do so. The Rev. E. W. Pape, father of one of our members, gave us an interesting talk on “The Lincolnshire Tennyson,” at another meeting. Our Jobmaster is doing his best to see that each member is fully occupied with Toc H jobs, one of which is the monthly collection of subscriptions to the local Nursing Association. Our next meetings are fixed for May 4 and 18 and June 1 and 15, at our H.Q., The Stable, Hotel Street, quite close to the Midland Station. PAPA.

COVENTRY.—The members attended a re-dedication service, led by our padre, on Good Friday, which was an inspiration. “Miles,” our padre, is now bidding us farewell for Stratford-on-Avon. We lament the loss and our best wishes follow him. The offer of help we made to the local Society for the Blind has been accepted; we are striving to help in socials and in taking as many blind folk as possible into the country each week. The Rainbow Fayre of the Waifs and Strays Society saw us in good numbers. In After Care work the mates found a need for a club to which they could take the children they meet, and on suggesting this to the J.O.C. they spontaneously agreed to equip and finance such a club, to be run by us in conjunction with the newly-formed L.W.H. on the girls’ side. The boys in our club are going into strict training for the J.O.C. display, for which we supply two marshals for the day. The Coventry and District Scouts and Cadets Sports, organised

by this Branch, demands our concentrated attention, for it is our big annual corporate job. Our camp starts next week at Hampden-in-Arden.

CHUMMIE.

GRIMSBY.—Visitors have swarmed on us lately and have helped greatly. On February 19, Pat Leonard gave us his great lantern lecture; on March 17, "Peggy" gave us of his wisdom; on April 20, two of us went over to Louth Group and brought "Dusty" Miller back for the next day; and on April 22, we went to Lincoln and met Tubby for the first time—a wonderful night which knitted us closer than ever to the Lincoln blokes. We are just beginning to realise what Toc H really is!

R. F. L.

LEICESTER.—Dicky Treherne, the Norwich jobmaster, spent a week at Mark XI, and on the guest-night gave us real inspiration and direct knowledge; his genial personality fairly brightened the House. And we have had the joy of Padre "Mac" from H.Q. We imploded on Coalville to hear Padre Billie Williams, but in his absence Mrs. Williams gave us a remarkable talk, full of quiet strength—her "first public oration" (as she called it)—proving that Toc H and L.W.H. have found another splendid missionary.

D.

LINCOLN.—The Branch is slowly but, we hope, very steadily growing in energy and sincerity. We are considering the question of arranging a sort of definite jobmaster's Roster, so that each member puts himself at the jobmaster's disposal at least one afternoon or evening each week, ready to accept any sound job and not leaving it to a few willing horses. (The experience of any similar experiment elsewhere would be a help to us.) One more corporate job has been added this month—work at the Boys' Remand Home, for which the jobmaster has promised two men on two nights a week. April 22 was a red-letter day—for members' diaries had the one word "Tubby" in them for that date. The realisation was even greater than our anticipation. The re-

dedication service at St. Mary-le-Wigford (a small but beautiful old church, kindly lent to us), was largely attended, and Tubby's address stirred everyone to the depths. His initiation of ten new members, under such circumstances, must have been glorious for those members. At the meeting afterwards, in the Lindum Restaurant, we welcomed members from Grantham, Sleaford, Grimsby, Louth, Scunthorpe, and Gainsborough, and our principal guests were the Bishop of Lincoln and the Mayor (Miss Nevile). In his address (though he did look very tired), Tubby was at his best—and other members will know what that means. One definite result will almost certainly be the starting of the L.W.H. here, which the Mayor is anxious to join.

TUG WILSON.

LIVERPOOL.—We have been kept very busy these last two months in "consolidating the position" amongst our newly-formed groups on Merseyside. The Birkenhead Group is now finding its feet, and on April 13 our Padre and several members went over to initiate their first few members. The proposed group in Waterloo is practically ready for "getting on with the washing," and we are just waiting for an invitation to take "the Circus" out. Our own branch meetings have gone on as usual. On March 13 we had Sir Alfred Pickford, who gave us an excellent talk, after our having "loaned" him for an hour in order that he could perform the opening ceremony of the Scouts Rooms at the new premises of the Liverpool University Settlement. On March 20 our speaker was Sir Arnold Rushton, an ex-Lord Mayor of Liverpool, who kept the meeting in high spirits by a breezy description of his experiences during his important year of office. The Sea Scout Troop, run by members of the branch, held a week-end camp at Easter in the garden of our headquarters. We are still carrying on with our experimental "Everyman's Club" on Wednesday and Thursday nights. We find the fellows attending in large numbers, and wish we could say the same of branch members.

JOCK.

LONDON FEDERATION: (a) *Battersea and Clapham*.—Since February we have had drastic changes. Val Bell has had to resign the secretaryship through lack of time; we have lost our first jobmaster and our treasurer; and we have moved our headquarters. We are hoping to run a new boys' club in May, and there is a good deal of work already going on. On April 17 we held a dance at St. Andrew's Hall for group funds; friends from Marks II and III gave a hand, and a Toe H band played gallantly. *Guest-night* at our H.Q., the Stormont Institute, Stormont Road, Lavender Hill, S.W. 11, at 8 p.m., on May 11, talk by the Medical Officer for Battersea; May 20, Barkis. DAISY.

(b) *Brixton*.—A successful dance, held at the Y.W.C.A., on April 24, will result in a strong group of the L.W.H. being formed. We wish to note that, in view of the adverse balance on the JOURNAL, reported in last month's issue, the group is unanimous in its decision to pay the full price of 6d. *Meetings*: May 3, at 408, Brixton Road; May 10, the group gives a concert at Wapping; May 17, the group attends a lecture of the National Union for Equal Citizenship, at the Y.W.C.A.; May 31, at 408, Brixton Road, at 7.30, lantern lecture, &c. FI.

(c) *Chigwell*.—Our first appearance in the JOURNAL. The group carries on steadily. At our last meeting someone whispered "Wireless for the Forest Hospital"—a big job, but we'll do it somehow. On April 26 we took a good contingent to Ilford to welcome Tubby, and on May 27 we are due at Mark VII.

(d) *Golders Green*.—After a somewhat trying period the group seems to be getting well together. Under "Buster's" shining example we are actively engaged in various jobs, of which there is a plentiful supply. We have, however, just lost our chairman, W. E. Simnett, who has resigned in consequence of the pressure of other duties. Meetings, at which there is generally a talk by one of our members, are held on the 2nd

and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the comfortable little room kindly lent for the purpose by Padre Trundle. R. S. P.

(e) *Hackney*.—Individual jobs are being carried on. The next corporate job is the Social Survey—no small undertaking. A committee consisting of the Secretary, Jobmaster, and one other has been formed to arrange the plan of campaign and to act as a clearing-house for information as it is collected. *Meetings*: May 13, at St. John's Institute, High Street, Homerton; May 27, visit to Mark VII. T. J. H. R.

(f) *Ilford*.—The greatest event of the month was Tubby's visit on April 26, with his lantern slides. Privileged to act as hosts to the Branches and Groups of North-East London, we listened spell-bound to Tubby's story of the world-tour. It was an inspiring evening. April 24 was another red-letter day. In an effort to introduce the "family spirit" more strongly into the Branch (sometimes a little difficult when you have no permanent room and meet only on Toc H business) we spent the afternoon together in a Branch visit to the P. & O. liner *Ranchi*. Guided by the cheery second officer, we worked our way from the bridge down through the decks and, after tea, to the engine rooms. We have to thank Mr. Ritchie, Managing Director of the P. & O., most sincerely for making the visit possible. Our Branch activities continue as before. Our own Boys' Club at Manor Park is settling down, and we are also assisting at the Oxford Trinity Boys' Club at Stratford.

(g) *Sidcup*.—Last month, at a meeting visited by Alex Birkmire, we entertained the members of the prospective Eltham Group. On April 10 we organised "Marigold Day" here on behalf of the Deaf and Dumb. Two of us went down to the Maidstone Birthday Festival on April 19, and were very impressed by the inspiring service and delighted to meet members from the other Kentish branches. Now that summer-time has started

we have forgone our evening meetings, and on April 25 took the first of our Sunday afternoon tramps this season. JACK.

(h) *Southgate*.—Being six months old, our baby Group talks for the first time! We number 16 and are busy with scouting, boys' clubs, voluntary pension work, teaching in classes for working men, &c., whilst our chairman is engaged in public work. Corporately we have been collecting books and papers for the local hospitals, and helped behind the scenes at a children's pageant for the Waifs and Strays. A boys' club was also started, but the available premises proved totally inadequate, but we hope to surmount the difficulty. Tubby's talk and a visit to Mark VII were greatly enjoyed by us. *Meetings* during the summer in the Scout Hut at the back of Hollypark Schools, Friern Barnet, at 8 p.m., on the first Friday of each month. JOCK.

(i) *Wimbledon*.—On Good Friday we acted as stewards at the mass meeting at Wimbledon Theatre, and on April 14 held our second dance, the proceeds of which were allocated to our Boys' Club funds. On April 16 we invited the L.W.H. to hear a very interesting talk, given by Mr. Hughes Clarke, on the "History of Wimbledon." Throughout the summer we are only holding meetings once a fortnight, instead of weekly as at present. *Meetings* at Johnson's Rooms, 39, Wimbledon Hill Road, S.W.19. April 30, Rev. L. Bunce; May 7, Second Annual Guest-night at Boys' Club; May 14, Business; May 28, Business. T. S. W.

MAIDSTONE.—The Branch celebrated its Birthday on April 18-19. On Sunday morning a corporate Communion was held at Holy Trinity Church. On Monday the first event was a service at the same church, attended by representatives of the Kentish Branches, and open to the general public. Padre Sinclair gave a most impressive address. Afterwards, in the Church Institute, Barclay Baron delivered words of advice in an hour's talk, which was all too short. After refreshments

opportunity was given to other Branches to tell us about their jobs, &c., and the evening ended with music. STEVE.

MANCHESTER: *Mark IV*.—On March 25, Sir A. A. Haworth talked to us on "The New Map of Europe." Among our guests was William Hind-Smith who, together with his sister, has given a room in the House in memory of his father and mother, well-known in Manchester for their social work. The Hind-Smith Room was dedicated and family prayers said in it at the close of the evening. On our Fourth Birthday, April 15, we remembered the many members of the House now serving in all parts of the world. (Accept our heartiest greetings, wherever you may be! It was an inspiration when Pat read out all your names and the places in which you now live and the jobs you are doing.) After songs, "shadowgraphs" and other mad things, Alex Birkmire, our chief guest, spoke on Toc H, not as a society but as a spirit. Pat Leonard has made the suggestion that we should form four "teams," one for each Thursday in the month, the members of which will definitely undertake to be present as hosts on the guest-night of their particular team. This will ensure not only a representative gathering at every guest-night, but that some of the members oldest in experience of Toc H will be with us to pass the traditions on to younger members coming in. C. T. H.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—The event of the month was Tubby's visit on April 20. He was accompanied by "Tim" Harington and Jim Tytler. All the Tees-side Branches and Groups were present, and among the guests was Lieut. Fell, who was "sandbagger-in-chief" to the Old House in Pop. Our president, Charles Dorman, took the chair. Members are regularly visiting the Middlesbrough Guardians Children's Hospital, and our visits are eagerly looked forward to. On Easter Monday a dozen members made an expedition to High Force. JOBMASTER.

NORTHAMPTON.—March 3: Mr. Bruce

Muscott enlightened us on "The League of Nations." March 10: Business meeting and initiation of several new members. March 17: We held a discussion on the question of starting a branch of L.W.H. which we decided to do provided we can find the right lady to run it. Our monthly service was held in the chapel afterwards. March 24: Fatherless boys' night. Our Rovers and Scouts gave a splendid Camp Fire Concert to them in the Club Room. March 31: Mr. Pratt gave us information on the work of the Board of Guardians. April 14: Miss Snowden, of the Charity Organisation Society, was the speaker. We are at present engaged on a scheme to receive and entertain touring theatrical companies and help them in obtaining proper accommodation in the town. When this is working we will give further information on it.

R. L.

NORTH STAFFS.—We have been steadily plodding on. Work with the St. John's Boys' Club has been a great pleasure to us and to the boys. We are winding up the winter session with a concert and feed on May 1. Mr. W. E. Keppy has given us a very interesting talk on the work of the Sailors' Society. On March 12 "Gunner" conducted a party of the Branch down a pit, where we got first-hand information on the coal question, and we have since been discussing the Coal Commission's Report together. We are keenly looking forward to the visit of Gilbert Williams on May 7, and to Tubby's second visit to the Branch on May 20.

T. C. M.

RADLETT.—Our first Birthday prompts us once again (but after a decent interval) to rush into print. We also think it's time we made our bow as a Branch, promotion to which in November, however unexpected and undeserved it may have been, gave us tremendous fillip and encouragement. As to the latter, what with promotion in November, the Birthday Festival in December, Barkis with us in February, Tubby at Hampstead in March, and Padre Fleming next week for our

own Birthday, we feel we have had almost more than our fair share. We hope, however, none have been less fortunate. We are gradually getting into closer touch with our good neighbours Luton, Bedford, Barnet, Hampstead, Harpenden and St. Albans, and ever on the look-out for opportunities of still closer acquaintance. We have recently been the very appreciative guests of Luton and Mark VII, and are now casting covetous eyes on new hunting-grounds such as Watford, Mill Hill and Elstree, in which districts we are hoping, hen-like, to lay a fertile egg one day soon. The great majority of our members are now in permanent jobs. Some are still tackling the Pentonville-ains; others have brought to a most successful head, under grave difficulties, our cherished ambition of the summer, viz., to provide Radlett with a Boys' Club for the winter. New accommodation for the latter is, however, an urgent necessity and forms one of our immediate problems. Next week we are celebrating our first Birthday, and are hoping then to welcome not only some of our neighbours, but also a number of our ladies, some, if not all, of whom we are secretly hoping to "toc-emma" during the evening. Conscious indeed of our many shortcomings, and of the fact that we've only just begun, we do feel that the past year has not been spent in vain.

THE BO'SUN.

RUGBY.—We continue to seek for new work, and have been successful in getting one of our members on the Rugby Council of Social Service Committee and hope that we shall be able to render help in the future. A further concert has been given to the U.S.F. Home children, and this was followed later by a lantern lecture. We closed down the Social Club for the session on April 15, and have arranged outings for the summer months. The Boys' Club is also closed and we hope to arrange week-end camps for the lads throughout the summer. On March 2 a few members visited the Coventry Branch Boys' Club, and on the 13th two members accepted the Nottingham Branch invitation and went along to hear Barkis. On February

23 Mr. R. C. Grace, of the U.S.F. Council, gave us a talk on "The United Services Fund"; on March 23, Mr. R. R. Hunter, of the B.T.H. Company, spoke on "Industrial Welfare." On April 27 a party of members travelled in a Rolls-Ford to Birmingham for the purpose of paying a return visit to Mark VI and to have the splendid opportunity of hearing Barkis. We are looking forward to Saturday, May 29, when the Rev. Studdart-Kennedy (Woodbine Willie) will visit us, and all neighbouring branches and groups will be welcomed.

JUMBO.

SALFORD.—Greetings to all the family from England's newest city! On the evening that our new civic status was announced Mark XIV had a delightful surprise visit from Padre Herbert Cawley, breaking his journey in his home town between Winnipeg and All Hallows; he had only a short innings owing to a wonderful talk that night on "Dickens as a Social Crusader." Like some other branches we are stricken with "Surveyitis," and have formed a study circle to help Toc H here to play its part in our city's developing prosperity. It has been good to welcome Greenacre of Nottingham and Dicky Treherne of Norwich at recent branch meetings. We have bidden "God-speed" to Jim Hilton this month and commend him to our brothers in Melbourne. A group is getting to work in Swinton and Pendlebury and before these notes appear the torch will have been lit in Bolton. To bring all the family together at least once a month we are having a "hot-pot supper" at 9 p.m. every first Tuesday and shall be glad to welcome members of neighbouring groups and branches. Another experiment is having a "team" of twenty members on duty each guest-night. *Meetings*: May 11, Professor Douglas Laurie on "The Social Importance of Heredity"; May 18, Canon Shinwell, on "Houses for Poorer Neighbours."

WILLOW.

[We have also received two circulars issued by Salford Branch to its members. One deals with the "team" plan, mentioned above and in this month's notes from Man-

chester. The other records the unanimous decision (opportune indeed in view of the Central Council's discussion on finance; see page 182) of a branch meeting on April 20 that (1) all Salford members be asked to pay their subscriptions by April 30; and (2) that a freewill offering scheme be introduced in the first week of May to help the movement as a whole. The branch undertakes to contribute to H.Q. at the rate of 10s. per member, "besides its commitments for the maintenance of Mark XIV and the development of Toc H in the local area."—ED.]

SALISBURY.—We have been busily occupied during the past month. The Padre first hit off with a private dance, held at the residence of Major Sheppard-Smith, the proceeds of which were placed to the Branch's Endowment Fund. A Guest-night full of enjoyment took place at the end of March, at which five new members were initiated; and Lt.-Col. A. E. Kent, D.S.O., of Porton Experimental Station, spoke on "Character." "The Young Person in Pink" was performed by local artistes on April 10, part of the proceeds of which were devoted to the 13th Salisbury Troop of Toc H Boy Scouts. A whist drive for the benefit of the branch took place on April 26. "The Pink Lady" is again being performed on the 28th, for the benefit of St. Thomas's House, where we have our headquarters, and we wish it success for a good cause.

SEC.

SHEFFIELD.—Tubby and Pat Leonard have both visited us, and we have heard the epic story of the Pilgrims' tour. We are trying to plant our feet firmer than before, and make a tightening of aim and purpose such as Tubby wants to see everywhere. Activities continue—the hospitals are supplied with papers regularly; we have embarked on an Egg Day ("hopefully fresh," as the Germans would say!); the Flag Day season seems to be setting in with its usual frightful vigour. Boys' club and mental defective aid are continuing through the summer. The Council of Social Service bulks ever larger and is doing excellent work; its

latest venture is a very successful Boys' Club and Hostel. Our own House is full to overflowing with hostellers. Tentative steps have been taken towards a South Yorks Federation, which seems to be generally desired. We have welcomed "Robey," Gilbert's successor, and find our new Free Church Padre, Sandercock, a great acquisition. *Guest-nights* every Wednesday, at 8 p.m. May 19, Mansfield and Barnsley as guests, discussion on "The Sunday Opening of Clubs." June 16, Doncaster and Retford as guests, Secretary of the Council of Social Service speaks. June 23, the Deputy Town Clerk, on "How Sheffield is Run." June 12 (Saturday afternoon), Toc H picnic at Roche Abbey. MAC.

SLEAFORD.—We had a successful winter with our kiddies' Boot and Stocking Fund, and have dealt with many needy and deserving cases. After some delay we have been able to secure the admission of a crippled lad to the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Home for training. Some members have taken on new work with the Scouts, and we continue to find librarians for the Kesteven Education Committee's Free Library. On March 20, "Pop" Janes said good-bye to the branch on his departure for Y.M.C.A. work in Southampton. We had a great night, Cranwell coming down in strength (including Jock and his bagpipes). April 22 saw us at Lincoln, along with the other Lincs. branches and groups, to spend a night with Tubby. Those of us who were able to be there derived fresh strength from Tubby's remarks. F. K.

SOUTH BANK.—Early in March, Padre Jones gave us a splendid talk on "Brotherhood," which proved that if not already in Toc H he is in an advanced stage of the disease! The branch is steadily growing, and it is interesting to find friendships being renewed after a lapse of years—for we are getting new members from among those who fought in the Salient; the old "Iron Division" (3rd) is well represented. Pensions work still continues to increase; and our latest venture is a ramble club, through

which it is hoped to cement the family spirit still more strongly. Our great meeting of the month was the gathering of Tees-side on April 20, at Middlesbrough, to hear Tubby, General Harington and Jim Tytler. Even to us in these branches the number of members present was astonishing. A committee of the branch has been formed to consider a local "survey," with the object of forming a Council of Social Service.

DAVIES.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—We ran a successful dance at the Pump Room in aid of the National Institute for the Blind. We have been visiting a destitute man, ill with consumption, in hospital three times a week, and would be glad to know of a hospital for open-air treatment which has a vacant bed for him. Two of us went over to the Maidstone Birthday on April 19, and we are glad to hear that Tubby will visit us. There will be another summer Conference at Crowborough this year, particulars of which will be announced later. PICKLES.

TYNESIDE CONFERENCE.—The eighth meeting of the Conference was held at Mark XVIII on April 9. The usual reports from Jobmasters and Secretaries were heard, some of them, especially from younger families, being of exceptional promise. The question as to whether this Conference, which really is an informal meeting of branch and group officers, should apply to the Central Executive of Toc H or be reconstituted as a Federation (with special powers under the Royal Charter) was considered, and after much discussion was laid on the table for six months. It was felt by the majority that good work had been done by the informal Conference, and that for the present any change would not greatly benefit the branches and groups. Much fear was expressed at possible red-tape being attached to a Federation, and of "special powers under the Royal Charter" becoming so much of a burden as to tend to hamper the Toc H way of things in committee. Les Abdy expressed the view that Federations need not neces-

sarily mean such a burden, and that when the demand for such a change came naturally, it would be beneficial. At the present he did not think it necessary for Tyneside to have a Federation of branches and groups. He mentioned that at the last Northern Conference, held in Manchester, it was hinted that Newcastle might be a suitable place to hold a Northern Conference. It was agreed to ask that Mark XVIII should be the scene of the next General Northern Conference but one, which will take place at Hull in the autumn of this year.

(a) *Mark XVIII*.—Another stage in the development of the house was reached on Saturday, April 17, when Lieut.-General Sir Charles Harington ("Tim") declared it open as an "official" Toc H Mark. The Lord Mayor and the Sheriff of Newcastle were present to evidence their civic interest in Toc H and its work. Tubby also told those present, including donors of memorial rooms and interested local people, what Toc H was out to do and how it needed their help as citizens. Prior to the opening of Mark XVIII, Tubby and Tim and other Toc H members were entertained to luncheon by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, and after the formal proceedings at the House, Tubby talked from the pulpit of St. Nicholas' Cathedral to the family of Toc H and L.W.H. and their friends from the area. The barrage is now lifted and Toc H on Tyneside is "over the top."

L. A.

(b) *Craghead*.—We are still carrying on—watching for jobs and praying for the strength to accomplish them when they get landed. Our Chancellor of the Exchequer has imposed a tax on us in aid of a T.B. patient pending room being found for him in some hospital.

LAMBY.

(c) *Cullercoats*.—Tubby's visit has, of course, been far and away the most important matter in the life of the group during these last few weeks. We were honoured by a special visit from him on the afternoon of Sunday, April 18, and we were fortunate in being able to arrange to have the St. John's

Ambulance Room on the Lower Promenade, Whitley Bay, at our disposal for the occasion. The afternoon will live long in the memories of all those who were privileged to be present. Jobs in progress include Deaf and Dumb welfare work and funds-raising for the St. John's Ambulance movement. "SCALES."

(d) *Felling*.—Our first Thanksgiving Service was held in St. Alban's Church, on April 11. Padre "Mac" (Rev. G. L. Maclean) unfurled our banner, the gift of Miss E. Grave, and Padre "Vic R" (Rev. V. R. Hill), of Hebburn, preached a splendid sermon. We are very thankful to Newcastle and Gateshead Branches for the way they turned up; they gave us a great deal of encouragement. Our pursuit of jobs is meeting with no small success. MAC.

(e) *Hartlepool*.—Since our last report we have had quite a busy time in the Pools! We celebrated our Birthday on March 16. We opened with a small service in the Missions to Seamen's Chapel, taken by our chaplain, Padre Lake, assisted by Padre Pestle from Tantobic. Supper followed, the order of the evening being B.Y.O.G. (Bring your own Grub); during supper the South Shields secretary gave us a short talk, after which we had a singsong. We held a Dance on April 9 in aid of Club Funds which was a great success. Now we are in the midst of Tubby's Northern visit. Our work is going on, and we have a number of applications for membership.

SCOTTIE.

(f) *Hebburn-on-Tyne*.—As one of the latest of groups to be recognised, we were fortunate to have Tubby with us on April 19, when he initiated our first twelve members. He told us how Toc H members in distant and lonely parts of the world were keeping the Lamp burning. He brought with him "Martini," "Jolly" Walker, Les Abdy, and Padre Slater; "Tim" Harington was to have come, but will visit us another time.

BLOTTO.

(g) *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*.—Since our last JOURNAL report we have sustained a serious

loss through the death of our beloved chairman, "Billy" (W. H. Saunders), on March 25, after a very short illness. At the early age of 32 he has been called to higher service. His whole life was spent in the service of the young—at school, play centres, boys' camps, folk-dance classes, &c. His whole heart and soul were in Toc H, for he found in it the fellowship he loved. His high spirits, enthusiasm, and leadership have done much in the building up of our branch, and he is sorely missed. We pray that his splendid example may inspire us to greater things. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember him." Tubby's visit, though all too short, has been a great inspiration to us. The great services at the Cathedral, the first Communion in the House Chapel, and the crowded meetings at which he spoke have left a great impression on Toc H life on Tyneside. The formation of a concert party to give entertainments at local institutions; the inauguration of two study circles, one dealing with "Work amongst boys," and the other with the "Race problem"; and the formation of a Rover Scout Troop are the special features this month. We are placing great hopes on the Rover Troop, as there is a shortage of efficient Scoutmasters in the city. On the 21st we had a very interesting talk on the social work of the Salvation Army amongst men, by Ensign Muir, of the local Salvation Army Men's Palace. *Meetings*: Every Wednesday, at Mark XVIII, at 8 p.m.

PITMAN.

(h) *South Shields*.—Tubby came and conquered; let *Te Deum* be sung! The crowded audience gave unmistakable proof of their appreciation, and one fellow came shyly forward to own his love to the Old House. At the Rotary luncheon also Tubby spoke to a large company, and at the instance of their president (Lt.-Col. Robert Chapman, who was also Tubby's host), a collection of £12 10s. was given in aid of our emigration fund. The Branch's annual service of Remembrance was held on April 26 in St. John's Presbyterian Church, when Padre Armour spoke on the "Lamp of the Lord"; it was a simple, impressive service. Recently, Lt.-Col. R. Gilks addressed us on "The Salvation Army Migration Scheme."

SCRIBBLER.

WEYBRIDGE.—We are now finding plenty of jobs to do. *Meetings*: May 6, Mr. Valler, on "Chemistry"; May 13, Debate; May 18, W. S. Turner (Bromley); May 29, Padre H. C. Money.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—On April 26, our Rushlight was dedicated by the Rector of Wolverhampton "to the glory of God and in memory of all the Elder Brethren of Wolverhampton," in the Leveson Chapel of St. Peter's Church. The Group Padre (Rev. J. Hall) conducted the ceremony of "Light," and the rector gave the address. In addition to local members, five representatives from Birmingham and one each from Barnet and Norwich were present. H. J.

Overseas Branches and Groups

AUSTRALIA: (a) *Melbourne*.—A member of "Group 3" at Melbourne writes to Pat Leonard on March 4, giving an account of how the group is "paying rent for its room on earth." This fine letter is too intimate to quote largely. It gives a glimpse of the "big brothering" of some orphan lads (whose photograph in camp, with their Toc H banner, appears in the March number of *The Link*, the Australian Toc H Journal). The

Group "felt that however successful a Christmas camp, without a follow-up right through the years it would fall short of 100 per cent. effectiveness." They have therefore taken the boys in hand, helped over an ejection order served on four of them living with an infirm grandmother, and started to give technical training to one who is, by now, apprenticed to a member of the Group. They have also started a boys' club "in a

particularly rough shop. . . . Things are not easy (who wants an easy job?)—broken windows, flying bricks and chairs and other incidentals inseparable from the kindling of the Light in dark and unwanted places. . . . At present the urchins are on top, but unquestionably, under the guidance of our jobmaster, these kids will live to thank God for Toc H." The instance of a very junior member meeting a young Englishman down on his luck, handing him his own lunch and sending him on to Padre Jackson ("Toc H pulled me out of the muck," this new friend said afterwards), gives a hint of the Group's happy spirit.

(b) *Sydney*.—The "Jobbie" of the Group writes to Pat on January 13: "We have initiated three since you left, but we are proving our new metal. The second wave, Tubby said, would bring with it good fellows for Toc H, and we are finding that out now. . . . All the stalwarts are keeping the Torch alight. Lofty made a beautiful Rushlight, which was dedicated at the corporate Communion on December 20 last (Birthday celebration). We had hoped to have our own chapel ready by Friday next, but there is still a little to be done. . . . This room, to which you gave a farewell salute, is looking wonderful. There is a nice, comfortable library and lounge, and I am hoping to get a gas stove going soon and start hot meals on Tuesday nights. I think, Pat, the boys are apt to get tired of sandwiches!" L. G. W. Farmer, the new "Office Boy" (*i.e.*, Registrar for N.S.W., succeeding Arthur Gough, who, as readers have already heard with sincere regret, has become a patient in a T.B. hospital), writes to Pat on March 10 about jobs—work at the Carlingford Home every week-end ("it seems wonderful the difference our team has been able to make out there with those youngsters with just the personal touch"), the wireless team working for the hospitals, &c.; he gives further detail of the Birthday Festival, which included a party for boys taken from various homes by the members on Saturday to Sandringham (where they swam together), and the Sunday service at St. Mark's, Darling

Point, followed by a breakfast, with speeches.

BELGIUM: *Ypres*.—The Group has settled down to its fortnightly meetings, which are well attended and full of interest, and continues to expand on the firm foundation of the Four Points of the Compass. Our membership shows a steady increase in fellows who come along of their own free will, and it is safe to say that Toc H has taken a definite place among organisations in the town. News about jobs is still somewhat scarce, but we are keeping ourselves in trim. The visit of Padres Fleming and Harold Hubbard (of Cheltenham) this month were very much appreciated, as were the impressions of "Life in America," which our jobmaster, N. Lomas, gave at our last meeting. We have to report the great loss which the Group has sustained in the death of one of its members, Albert Cleenewerck, after a very short illness, at the early age of 36. He died on April 6, and was buried in the Communal Cemetery of Ypres on April 10. Representatives of various Belgian and British societies came to pay their last tributes to this very gallant and lovable gentleman. A wreath from Toc H Ypres and condolences to his widow were all that we could give to express our deep regret and sympathy, but we shall never forget the many kindnesses which he showed to us individually and as a Group. Intimately connected with the Old House in Poperinghe, he was the first to offer a helping hand when we decided to reconstruct Toc H in Ypres. His early death is deeply mourned not only by Toc H in Ypres, but by his fellow-townsmen and by English visitors who knew him.

J. E.

[The mourning card for Albert Cleenewerck, which Padre Fleming brought home, provides this touching epitaph: "*Il laisse le souvenir du plus tendre des époux, du plus affectueux des pères, du plus aimant des fils, du plus fidèle des amis, du plus soucieux des patrons. Les pauvres perdent en lui un grand bienfaiteur. Que sa mémoire soit bénie!*" — "He leaves behind

the remembrance of the most gentle of husbands, the most affectionate of fathers, the most loving of sons, the most faithful of friends, the most hospitable of hosts. In him the poor lose a great benefactor. May his memory be blessed!" Albert was proprietor of Skindles Hotel, and put his best room at the disposal of the Ypres group. —Ed.]

CANADA: *Toronto*.—Mark H C recently received a letter from two Old Country boys who were thinking of emigrating to Canada. It was significant of the brotherly comradeship and confidence that Toc H is spreading abroad. And, though it did our hearts good to hear from them and realise the faith they were placing in us, yet we were loth to advise them. No doubt opportunities are more numerous in Canada than in the Old Land, but there are many here waiting for them. There are great possibilities in our mining and lumbering and Western farming districts, but in any chance that may offer, hard work, manual labour, must be gone through. Unless a man is willing and able to do such work or is specially fitted for something he has a fair promise of starting on, then the path will not be one of roses. But we asked them to write us in detail as to their past occupations, hinting at the same time that even in Canada all is not "milk and honey."

INDIA AND CEYLON: (a) *Cawnpore*.—*Extrait from a letter to Tubby from A. C. Inskip, dated March 18, 1926*:—"We are now seven, and although the Group has only been in existence two months, Cawnpore is humming over Toc H, and the fellows that matter are dead keen to join us. I looked up Elliott when visiting Calcutta in January, and obtained first-hand knowledge of the Toc H Council in India and what the Groups in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras are doing. Arrangements have just been made for Padre Pearson to come to Cawnpore early in April and spend a few days with us before he proceeds on home leave. He will be bringing our Rushlight, and we are going to make his visit as enjoyable as possible. . . .

Apart from visiting the local hospitals, we have not much to report, though members of the Group are interesting themselves in local affairs. Certain members are running charitable organisations such as "The Helping Hand Fund" of the European Association, also the Cawnpore Children's Aid Association for educating the children of distressed Europeans. We have also a member on the local Church Council, in addition to the Padre, and steps are being taken to run an ex-Service dinner next Armistice Day—a thing that has not been done in Cawnpore yet, despite the fact that we have numerous ex-Service men here. . . . Arrangements are also being made for the Group to be notified of all new men coming out from home to join the numerous mills we have here. Members have now received the January and February issues of the JOURNAL, and the contents have made us all more enthusiastic than ever."

(b) *Madras*.—*Extrait from a letter to a member of Islington Branch from Professor E. J. Bingle, Madras Christian College, dated March 10*:—"Concerning Toc H. Our Group is settling down much more hopefully than at first I thought possible, chiefly because it has taken some solid jobs and is thinking a little. The jobs are prison work, visiting the asylum (chiefly, of course, the European and Eurasian part) and some reformatory work as well as scouting things. During the Military Tournament Toc H organised a week of concerts for the troops and sailors who were here in preparation for the show a week beforehand. The meetings are held twice a month with guests and an occasional talker . . . the usual business, with special attention to the jobmaster . . . Asylum work has its comic side, and though results are bound to be small anything that can be done for this human scrap heap ought to be, and we are welcomed by patients and authorities. . . . I have been thinking a lot about Toc H lately, and though I never quite 'got it' at home (chiefly because I wasn't doing my job of work), I have been

wakened up by the views of the war common among Indians here. I find that they (and some of the Europeans, too) condemn it all out of hand, or at least try to forget, where Toc H—rightly, it seems to me—does neither but seeks to turn the better side of it to the most useful purposes. . . . I think Toc H has a bigger job here than in many places.”

We have also received the minutes of the 15th and 16th meetings of the Group on March 18 and April 1, together with the “Jobmaster’s Innings,” which the Group duplicates and circulates every time. At the first of these meetings, at which 16 members and eight guests were present, an application for help for the Friend in Need Society, and a proposal to meet a small number of soldiers at the Minden Club to discuss work there, were considered, besides the usual prison and hospital jobs and scouting. At the next meeting Gerald Streatfield (late Oxford Branch, now Secretary of Kandy Group) was present, and told them of Toc H progress in Ceylon (see Kandy news below). After supper they discussed Rover finance and prison work. The Inspector-General of Prisons, it was reported, “had spoken very highly of the work being done by Toc H in the Prison and Reformatory, and suggested that our activities should be extended to the Tanjore Borstal.”

(c) *Kandy*.—Despite the crocodiles mentioned in the last news from Kandy in the February JOURNAL, we are still alive and undaunted. Let it be known that that letter was written some sixty or seventy miles from Kandy, at one of the buried cities of Ceylon and away out in the jungle. In March we had our first supper together, and the Director of Agriculture spoke afterwards. At our other meeting, in March, we indulged in a singsong. Both these seem good moves, as we are beginning to know each other better, and others are coming along to make our group more comprehensive. At the singsong one of the most popular items was the singing of “The Policeman’s Lot is not a happy one,” by the Superintendent of Police,

accompanied at the piano by the Police Magistrate. We appointed an O.C. Music, and both the prison and the hospital will reap the benefit, which we ourselves enjoyed at the singsong. The games of soccer with the street-boys continue three times a week, and lead to considerable enjoyment and no little perspiration on the part of our members and the boys themselves. A junior team of these boys played their first match the other day and won a handsome victory, 4-0. Many of these boys are destitute and homeless, and jump at the suggestion that they should come and live in a club-house together, so we are busy making plans to build them one. The boys have promised to help to build their own home. We are, perhaps, too optimistic about raising the funds, although people’s pockets are fuller than usual owing to the boom in rubber. This is our chief job, but we have members visiting the prison, whose visits seem to be much appreciated. Cricketers, and especially those who are anxious about the “ashes,” may be interested to know that when the Australians, on their way to England, played against the all-Ceylon team, A. H. R. Joseph, one of our Ceylonese members at Kandy, made 61 not out, the highest score on either side. The Secretary has recently visited Madras and enjoyed meeting the jolly family they have built up, a family who seem to be doing much valuable work in Madras. It was very like attending one of the best branch meetings at home.

G. C. S.

NEW ZEALAND.—The Dominion Conference held at the time of the Birthday Festival drafted a resolution appointing H.E. General Sir Charles Fergusson (Governor-General of New Zealand) as Dominion President, the Archbishop of Auckland and Sir R. Heaton Rhodes as Vice-Presidents; Padre Kenneth Macfarland (now at All Hallows) Dominion Padre—with Padre Fielden Taylor to act until “Mac” gets home; J. H. Simpson (Wellington) Hon. Treasurer, F. W. Ken (Christchurch) Hon. Secretary, and Padre G. C. Coats (Auckland)

Registrar of the Dominion. They have now asked leave of H.Q. to make Sir Charles Fergusson their local Patron and Sir Andrew Russell Dominion President, and this has been sanctioned.

(a) *Christchurch*.—The minutes of the group show "three splendid meetings" between February 27 and March 23. At the first meeting eight members were initiated, and Charles Clark, in an account of Toc H progress in New Zealand, told them about Wellington Group's job with Public School-boys (see Wellington notes, below); and that prospects for a group in Dunedin were good. Sixteen members attended the meeting on March 16; there was a report on jobs and a discussion on the aims of Toc H and on finance.

From Christchurch we have also received a copy of their local news-sheet, *The Ventilator*—"published spasmodically" to ventilate their feelings. No. 2, published on March 16, consists of two closely written sheets, printed very efficiently on a duplicator. [We note, with envy, that the joint-editors "may not be sued for anything above one mark, 1920 model."—ED.]

(b) *Wellington*.—Since our Birthday Festival Wellington has had three Guest-nights. Our guests are warned beforehand that they are expected to lead discussion quite as much as deliver a lecture. Talks were given by the Government Probation Officer (who is a member). The Founder and President of a City Boys' Club and Hostel, and at the last guest-night the Under Secretary for Immigration spoke of his jobs and ours as it concerned the English Public School boy. We have met the last three batches of these boys, fraternised with them till they left for their respective farms, and kept in touch with them by correspondence. Two of the boys recently arrived, who were not very fortunate in their first farm positions, have had other billets obtained for them through Toc H and the Government Immigration Department. We have other plan. of forwarding illustrated lectures and information as to the

real prospects for Public School boys in this country to the Schools Organiser at H.Q. The group is also taking the whole responsibility of an Indian Public School boy who is expected to arrive shortly. Jobs of work are many and varied, from minding the grounds of an Orphanage to taking charge of a Boys' Club's Library. Two members are working hard on school contacts, and are finding headmasters anxious to co-operate. Our honorary padre, Rev. T. Fielden Taylor, has given a series of talks on Toc H before the large majority of the local Territorial Cadets. We had a good muster of members at the quarterly corporate communion last Sunday. Wellington Toc H wants a group in Dunedin (the Southern city of New Zealand which was not visited by Tubby and Pat); two of our members have been working amongst a section of the worth-while men, and we hope to report later that Dunedin is the fourth city of the New Zealand Toc H map. We like the idea suggested in the January JOURNAL of the Home Branches adopting Overseas Branches by correspondence. Is there a branch that has passed through its growing pains and has experience and sympathy to offer, that would like to write to a younger member of the Toc H family 13,000 miles away from the inspiration of Birthday Festivals? S. J. H.

SOUTH AFRICA: *Keiskama Hoek and East London*.—Bert Oldfield, Secretary of the branch, wrote the other day to the Registrar at H.Q. from St. Matthew's College, where he has long been a teacher. He encloses a very jolly photograph of a team of African native boys, with the cup which they had won. He writes, "I enclose you a photograph of the Dormitory which won the 'Toc H Cup' for athletic sports this year (1925). Although they have no 'stars,' they won by co-operation and pulling together—just what we gave the cup for originally! It has been a rallying-point all along and has brought out the best in the students; it has encouraged them to play for their House and not for personal prizes,

and we have had several cases of wonderful self-sacrifice 'for the sake of the Dormitory.' Harry Bennett, Secretary of East London Group, is staying with us, also Archdeacon Rowley, their jobmaster, and both will attend our next meeting to-morrow. They are going great guns down there and getting a really influential group together."

SOUTH AMERICA: *Buenos Aires.*—Nobody can talk or think of anything else but the House—*Our* House. After many terrific meetings and discussions, the House is at last in the hands of the decorators to be done up and altered to make a suitable home for Mark I, South America. There are already many applications from possible hostlers and a provisional House Committee has been formed to take charge of everything from tin-tacks to caretakers. The house is in a very central position, and there is little doubt that it will be a huge success; in fact, the only thing lacking at the moment is a Branch Padre, but Bishop Every, who has but recently returned from England, brings us fairly hopeful news in this direction. Apart from the House we have to announce the departure of a very popular and energetic member, S. G. Simons, for Glasgow; we are, however, comforted by the thought that Toc H in that city will find him as invaluable to them as he was to us out here. Our indefatigable Hon. Organising Secretary for

South America, W. J. Lake Lake, has also left us for a well-earned holiday at home; so also the acting Chairman, Archdeacon Hodges, whose place will be taken by our "Peato." Toc H continues to expand in a most satisfactory manner, the groups in Mendoza and Rosario going ahead in great style. News likewise comes from way down in Punta Arenas of prospects of forming a group in that part; if this finally becomes a fact it will be the furthest South Toc H group in the world. **DICK RANDOLPH.**

UNITED STATES.—Padre Pryor Grant wrote an excellent account of the acquisition for Toc H of "The House that Jack Built," in New York, but, unhappily, it reached us after the report, largely taken from letters of himself and Sawbones, appeared in the *MARCH JOURNAL*. Padre William B. Lusk writes two letters to Pat in March, from which we get a glimpse of the way Toc H keeps him and Seth Low Pierrepont busy. Padre Lusk says that he now hopes to get a group going in Ridgefield, Conn., his own home. (Ridgefield School is already in with us and an excellent article on Toc H by one of the boys appeared in a recent number of the school magazine.) Seth went over to Washington for a guest-night and telegraphed his enthusiasm from there to Padre Lusk, who was busy spreading the Toc H gospel in several other directions.—**ED.**

The League of Women Helpers

CHELTENHAM.—Our club for working girls of fourteen and upwards has been a great success. The doors are open from 7-9.30 p.m. and no questions are asked; of the 34 girls who have attended, 19 are regular in coming. They have music and dancing and a small canteen, and one night a week are taught first-aid and musical drill. During the summer a field is available for rounders, &c. Our members have continued to visit the blind, the crippled children, tubercular ex-soldiers, and lonely hospital patients and

a hospital for incurables at Gloucester is visited once a week. We are to have a joint stall with the Cripples Aid Association at a big bazaar in June. **M. F. H.**

COVENTRY.—The L.W.H. have started quite well here, and had the great pleasure of Miss Macfie coming down to address them on April 27. They have already started to make money by means of a whist-drive, and hope in the future to make more in a similar manner. **KELLY.**